STATEMENT OF RALPH C. BANGSBERG
Plans Chief, Inaja Fire

I was called to the Inaja fire on Sunday, November 25, 1956, arriving in the Pine Hills fire camp about 9:15 A.M.

Within a few minutes after my arrival Fire Boss McBride asked me to take over Plans which I did.

At this writing here in Redding, without a map of the shift for Sunday night, it is difficult to remember the sector and division conditions or the various assignments.

As I recall the briefing, it was done rather briefly. The information on line conditions, need for men and other facilities were slow in coming in and difficult to get. Consequently, we were up against the gun in getting out the "dope" sheets. We barely made it in time to brief the crews. Written instructions were thus very brief.

My briefing consisted of calling in the Line Boss and all the Division Bosses. Some Sector Bosses were in the building but there was such a crowd and a hubbub that I concentrated on the Division Bosses.

My briefing consisted of what I knew about line conditions such as whether the lines were complete, needed completion, needed firing, key points of control, physical location of sectors and divisions, etc.

So far as the briefing on Bill Howard Division is concerned, I recall telling him that my information indicated that his line was all open down in the San Diego Canyon and that it was cooling down fast, that it was steep and heavy brush. The job would be to cut line and fire out as it became possible from the top or rim down to the San Diego River to where he met the other crew. I believe he also had other instructions to hold a cat line along the rim. I think he had a small sector there too.

Having been on the Cleveland years ago (the Lyons Peak Fire), I had a good idea of the terrain described to me. I thought I recognized rather high scattered brush and huge granite boulders. I knew that the Santa Ana winds were from the north or northeast and that down canyon winds could be expected all night. I anticipated no shift in winds and very little diminishing.

Whether I explained these things to Bill Howard, I cannot remember. From the information I had I did not recognize this sector as particularly dangerous to people other than its steepness and I do not recall making any statement to Bill Howard to indicate he should be careful about being

trapped, cutting escape ways, etc. Such conditions are or should be normal with Division Bosses on any fire at any time. Andy Anderson, I am sure, was well aware of this escape route caution at all times. It was made a special subject for all people on the Shasta following the Rattlesnake Fire on the Mendocino.

I did not know too much of Bill Howard's background and took his rating at face value. Anderson's ability I knew, which was one reason for selecting him for this assignment.

Again, I picked Andy to work under Bill Howard mainly because the topography was tough and steep and I knew that if trouble developed, Andy would know what to do.

The last three paragraphs are merely accounts of what went through my mind. I did not state them to Anderson or Bill Howard but they may help in determining why I selected these men.

To repeat, basically the briefing was largely confined to telling men where their divisions and sectors were, how to get there, what condition the line was in and what work should be done. In the case of this line, I am sure that the description of work to be done was little more than an amplification of the short statement on the dope sheet including a brief description of the steepness of topography and brush cutting job.

I foresaw no serious danger to men from changes in wind during the night.

I do not think that Fire Boss McBride made any comment on my plans for the night before or during the briefing. In this I could be mistaken but whatever it may have been, it was minor. We were together later during the evening before the accident and I do not recall McBride commenting on the adequacy or inadequacy of the plans. I know that he saw the plans that evening and to the best of my knowledge asked for no change or special precautions.

I helped train McBride at Los Prietos in Fire Behavior. He was a ranger on the McCloud District of the Shasta, attended our fire schools, conducted very good training schools of his own and seemed to be a good organizer. In short, I knew McBride and he knew me well. If either he or I had had the slightest indication that there was such imminent danger, either of us would have had time to correct the situation immediately.

This latter paragraph is put in largely to indicate that regardless of the briefing, McBride and I had ample time to review the plans and correct any dangerous assignment.

Ralph C. Bangsberg

November 30, 1956

PERSONNEL HISTORY STATEMENT

Region 5

NAME: Ralph C. Bangsberg

PRESENT ASSIGNMENT: Forester (Fire Control), GS-11

DATE OF BIRTH: 1/28/10

EDUCATION: B. S. Forestry, University of California, 1931

EXPERIENCE:
4/49--Fire Control Officer, Shasta and Shasta-Trinity forests, P-3, GS-9, GS-11
5/44-4/49--District Ranger, Yreka, Klamath, and Covelo and Stonyford districts, Mendocino, SP-8, P-2, P-3
4/43-5/44--Scaler and Junior Forester

COMMENTS: Has demonstrated great proficiency in the field of fire control and developed his ability as a staff officer and in staff work. Has served competently as a fire control officer on the Shasta and then on the combined Shasta-Trinity forests. Has good technical ability and judgment.

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

FOREST SERVICE REDDING, CALIFORNIA

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : LYNNE CORRELL

DATE: November 30, 1956

FROM : PAUL STATHEM

SUBJECT: F-SUPERVISION
K-PERSONNEL-Ralph C. Bangsberg

PERSONAL

I have been asked to prepare a brief statement as to my personal opinions concerning the qualifications of Ralph for the job he filled on the Inaja Fire.

I first knew him as a Ranger on the Mendocino Fire in the mid '40's when I was Supervisor of the Mendocino. At that time we started his training for a Fire Control Officer candidacy. As a result, he was assigned to the Shasta Forest in 1949 as Fire Control Officer, undoubtedly on the basis as the best qualified candidate at that time. It should be born in mind that the Shasta is recognized as having one of the most serious fire control problems nationwide and has areas known for being treacherous.

Upon being assigned as Supervisor of the combined Shasta-Trinity Forests, I sat through a regional staff meeting in which personnel were selected for the staff positions on the combined unit. Again, Bangsberg was the best qualified candidate and was assigned the job. His knowledge of fire control problems, fire behavior, and his ability as a trainer, were recognized by the region in his assignment as an instructor for a regionwide Advanced Fire Training School held at Los Prietos. In fact, I believe Ralph had a leading part in the training of Bob McBride to where he gained recognition as an outstanding candidate for a Fire Control position.

I can best express my thinking as to his ability by the fact that I personally called him back from leave and asked him to go to this specific fire because of the fact we had 45 men from the Shasta-Trinity in southern California. Having had many personal experiences fighting fires in southern California under Santa Ana conditions, I felt it most desirable that he be on the fire in a responsible position, to assist not only in the control of the fire, but in the assignment of our men and the men from northern California in the best manner possible.

Paul Stathem

PAUL W. STATHEM

December 1, 1956

STATEMENT OF JACK P. CURRAN - Division Boss over Sectors G & H
Inaja Fire

I was briefed in Pine Hills Fire camp early the morning of 11/25/56. My instructions were to pick up the rest of the open line along the Eagle Peak Road and to "Hot Spot," cold trail and hold a line into the San Diego River.

I assigned one sector under Sector Boss Len Freed to start picking up the open line from the beginning of our sector to the rim above the San Diego River. I then proceeded to the other sector of my line on the rim of the River. I had 47 laborers, 2 Sector Bosses and 2 Crew Bosses at this point. I assigned one crew boss with 10 laborers (inmates) to work back from this point until they tied in with Freed's men. With the rest of the men we attempted to cold trail the fire line into the River. Although the wind was 15 to 30 MPH, it was in our favor as it was blowing quarterly across the ridge down canyon. Behavior of the fire at this time appeared to be good for our operation. However, after being forced to back out of this line two or three times due to the up canyon swirling action of the wind after it crossed the ridge top which tended to cause the fire to whip back under our line, we decided to give up the cold trail operation. Dillingham, Burrows, and I discussed the situation and decided to back away about 300 feet and parallel the fire down a ridge to the river, firing out as we went so as to have burn to retreat into should the fire get under us. The location of this line was picked because it appeared to be the shortest line to the river and had the least amount of heavy fuel (chemise) on it. About this time two tractors came down the ridge, up canyon from the fire, to our line. I questioned the operators of these tractors on the possibility of them assisting us on this line to the river. They believed the area to be too rocky so were reluctant to attempt it. I then instructed them to construct line on up the canyon rim as close to the ridge top as possible. They then left my area to work on this. The crews worked on this second line for about 1-1/2 hours and had constructed about 300 feet of line when we decided that maybe we were still too close to the fire and should back out. During this time we started to burn along the lines constructed along the rim but we found that any fire we set along the top tended to draw the fire faster against the wind on the upper section of the fire, thus giving us less time to complete any parallel line. We decided against any further burning unless we were forced into it. During this entire time, the wind had never changed.

After pulling out of the second line, I instructed the crews to continue a line along the rim paralleling the river, taking advantage of the tractor line as much as possible, to the next high point about 1/4 mile further on, and start a new line to the river. I picked this line even though it was longer than other ridges because it was well away from the fire, about 4 small ridges at the top, and the fuel appeared to be favorable for fast construction. About 1/3 of it being chemise and the other two-thirds being sage.

I then left the area to check on my other sector, and to see what had happened to the lunches that were to be sent out for our men. The other crew had completed their line and was mopping it up.

At about 1:30 p.m., I arrived back with the lunches and found that the Sector Bosses had started the line one ridge closer than I had instructed, but they were making real good progress down the hill with this third line, being probably about 1/4 of the way down. Since it appeared to be a shorter line, it appeared to be satisfactory. The men then ate lunch. During this lunch period, there appeared to be a strong up canyon draft near the bottom, on the opposite side of the canyon, which caused the fire on that side to make a run up canyon and bring the fire edge near the bottom almost even with the fire edge near the top on the opposite side. During this run, the fire spotted across the river to our side several hundred yards above the previous fire edge at the bottom of the canyon. The area between this spot and the fire edge burned out during the next hour or so with very little effect on the fire edge near the top. This burning had the effect of decreasing the angle of the fire line from the top, down canyon to the bottom. After this burn, the entire line calmed down considerably and returned to slowly backing up canyon against the wind.

Around 2:00 or 2:15 p.m., the men returned to work on the line to the river. Around 3:00 p.m., the fire edge on the top reached the second line we had started down, so I started burning down this line to slow up the spread at the top and hold the fire temporarily at this point. Again I found that it was better to let the fire back into the line rather than do any burning due to the wind turbulance, so I only burned about 1/3 of the way down this line and quit. About this time, the fire at the bottom began burning on the toe of a side ridge that ran off of the ridge that the crews were working down on. Due to this, at 3:15 p.m. I called to my men to come back out of the line. Part of the men came out but about 10 men and Sector Boss Burrows continued to work for about 30 minutes after I first called. I let these men continue because I felt that Burrows was an old hand and that if the fire started to move fast towards our line, he would take his men to the river. Finally, I ordered him out also. He stated that he did not feel there was any danger and that they could have had a narrow escape trail into the river without too much more work. He reached the top about 4:00 p.m. In the meantime, I had received word that "Doc Davis," the Line Boss, would be over to see me, so I did nothing beyond holding the ridge on top until he arrived. We all then stayed on top for the rest of the day shift.

About 6:00 p.m., the overhead and crews walked back to where the trucks were to meet them. I stayed on top with a pumper crew to meet the night crew and pass along what information I had on the location of the lines, fire behavior, etc. I spent most of the time, while waiting, sitting on a vantage point watching the fire. During this time, even though the

wind appeared to increase, the fire appeared to be burning much slower, especially down lower in the canyon. I thought while watching it that perhaps if the humidity should raise a few percent, that most of it might go cold. During this time, I heard voices down our fire line towards the river, and investigated. I found two boys who were pickup labor on the pumper crew coming up from the river. They reported that this was the first fire that they had been on, and so they wanted to look around. They stated that they had hiked all the way to the river and back. I tried to question them more about this to try and get a better idea of how much further it was from the end of our line to the river and the type of cover further on down. I could not secure any satisfactory information from them. Shortly after this, about 7:15 or 7:20 p.m., the night crews started arriving. I contacted Division Boss Howard and pointed out the line. I suggested that if he planned on carrying our line on down to the river, that he do this before he attempted any burning. He stated that he felt that conditions were ideal for burning and that they were, as he put it, "Build line and burn out as we go." His overhead all appeared to concur with this decision. I cautioned them about the wind and told them that the wind was not as favorable as it appeared and that I had trouble any time I tried burning. He told Anderson that he and his men were to work down the hill, so I cornered Anderson, who I knew slightly from other fires, and cautioned him. I told him that the wind was tricky and could possibly whip the fire back underneath them, and that they should push a narrow escape line to the river before working under any burning. I also told him that it would be better not to go down the hill ahead of the burning. Howard then called his overhead together for further briefing, and I heard them setting their watches together for timing radio contacts as I left and started walking down to the pickup. One of the pumper crewmen went in with me to bring back food for the pumper crew. As I was walking down the hill I noticed that they were burning out the top and had several fusees going.

I met a Crew Boss from one of Howard's sector teams at the pickup and he reported that he was going back with me to bring out lunches. This crew boss, the tanker crewman, the Arrowhead-U-Drive driver of the pickup and myself returned to camp.

Part way into camp, we met "Doc Davis" on the road heading towards Howard's Division. I explained to Davis the situation and he stated that he felt that we would not be able to get a line into the river from both sides near the same place, and, unless that were possible, we would never hold either side. On this I concurred. Davis then expressed the opinion that we would probably have to burn out the entire canyon. As I recall, I then suggested that he better go on out to Howard's line and look over the situation. We then proceeded on to camp, arriving somewhere between 8:15 and 8:30 p.m.

Upon arrival in camp, I was advised by Fire Control Officer McBride that

there had been a blowup on the line and that they feared some of the men may have been lost. I voiced the opinion that they may have backed down to the river and were safe. I heard nothing further until I was awakened the next morning and told of the tragedy.

To the best of my memory, this is a true report of conditions and actions taken upon this fire line the day of the tragedy up until I was relieved shortly before the accident happened. The only times that I am certain of is the 3:15 p.m. time when I first called the men out of the river line; however, I believe the other times shown to be fairly close. There are probably several incidents that occured during the day that I have not set down, but I believe that I have covered all of the essential facts, particularly those pertinent to the case.

/s/ Jack P. Curran

Jack P. Curran
Fire Control Assistant
Monterey District, Los Padres N.F.

November 30, 1956

PERSONNEL HISTORY STATEMENT

Region 5

NAME: Jack P. Curran

PRESENT ASSIGNMENT: Fire Control Aid (General), GS-7

DATE OF BIRTH: 4/4/13

EDUCATION:

EXPERIENCE:

12/54--Fire Control Assistant, Monterey, Los Padres, GS-7
3/43-12/54--Fire Control Assistant, Monterey, Los Padres, SP-6, SP-7, GS-6
5/40-3/43--Fire Control Assistant, Frazier Park and Mt. Pinos, Los Padres, CU-6, SP-4, SP-6
7/36-5/40--Worked on Los Padres Forest part time (most of each year) as Fire Guard, Laborer, Junior Asst. to Technician, and Principal Forest Guard

COMMENTS:

Came into the Forest Service through the Civilian Conservation Corps--from a crew leader position. Has long experience in southern California--Los Padres National Forest--and consequently has much experience in fire control in the south. He has earned his reputation as an F.C.A. and over the years has demonstrated his knowledge, skill, and ability in all phases of his fire control aid position.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF FIRE EXPERIENCE

FOR JACK CU RAN

Jack Curran has been the Fire Control Assistant on the Monterey District for the past 14 years and also was Fire Control Assistant on the Mt. Pinos District for one year.

From 1937-1942 he was a Fire Guard doing prevention and presuppression work and was in charge of small fire crews.

He has worked at most of the line and staff jobs in the fire organization on large fires. Some of the jobs at which he worked are Chief of Staff, Line Boss, Fire Boss, Sector Boss, Crew Boss and Air Observer. His experience as Line Boss has covered one or more large fires for the past 15 years mostly in Southern California.

His experience includes work on 30 Class E Fires, 15 Class D fires, 25 Class C fires and 30 A & B Fires in a supervisory capacity. His work has been rated above average on these fires.

He has trained hundreds of fire fighters during the past 15 years and has written workable training plans for various jobs in the District fire organization. He has been commended for his work and suggestions in the field of safety.

He has kept abreast of the progressive changes in fire fighting techniques and used them in fire suppression work. His knowledge of fire behavior gained through his long years of experience has aided considerably in suppression of fires both on and off Forest.

Jack was Division Fire Boss on the McKinley "E" fire on the San Bernardino Forest in September of this year. This was his most recent large fire assignment prior to the present Cleveland fire.

ROBERTS E. JONES
Forest Supervisor

By G. L. Dickey
Acting

NOV 30 1956

For No. 203-R5

Date November 29, 1956 — SUMMARY OF FIRE QUALIFICATION CARD (FORM 85-R5) — Unit Los Padres

NAME (Full, as on payroll) (a)	Best Off-Forest Fire Assignment (b)	(c) Special Qualification				(d)																(e)	(e)	Other Qualifications and Remarks (f)
		Rough Line	Hot Line	Mop Up Work	N-S Exper.	Fire Boss	Line ~~Bir.~~ Boss	Sector Boss	Crew Boss	Cat Boss	Pumper Boss	Saw Boss	Trans. Unit Sector Boss Tractor	Records Off.	Line Scout	Timekeeper	Service Chief	Camp Boss	Cat Operator	Pumper Operat.	Back Firing Specialist		
Curran, Jack P.	Line Boss	X	X		N-S	X	(x)	(x)		(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)		x					(x)			Air Officer, Air Observer, Equip. Manager, ~~Line Inspector~~

CODE: T - Training Assignment; X - On-Forest Qualification; (X) - Off-Forest Qualification; N - Northern Calif. Exp.; S - Southern Calif. Experience. See reverse side for further instruction.

AGRICULTURE—FOREST SERVICE—SAN FRANCISCO

Wegis

STATEMENT OF JACK DILLINGHAM Re: Action of day crews, Division 4, Sector G, Inaja Fire, Cleveland NF, 11/25/56

On November 25, 1956, I was assigned as Sector Boss on Sector G, Division 4, of the Inaja Fire. Jack Curran was Line Boss. We had one crew of Chino inmates and one crew of Saboda Indians with their own crew leader. We travelled by truck from Pine Hills Camp via Eagle Peak Road to the Lewis Ranch. On arrival at Lewis Ranch, Curran and Burrows, another Sector Boss, scouted the route to the fire line on the south slope of San Diego Canyon and northwest of Lewis Ranch. I followed with the crews, arriving on the ridge top near fire line at approximately 0730. Curran, Burrows and I discussed plans and decided on an indirect line from the ridge top into San Diego Canyon. A strong Southeast wind was blowing across the ridge top causing gusty, unstable wind conditions on the lee slope of the canyon. The fire was burning spasmodically in light to heavy mixed brush with a scattering of live oak trees. The ridge top was very rocky, with a ledge paralleling the ridge on the north face and extending down slope approximately 200 feet.

On beginning our action on the fire, one ten-man crew with Crew Boss Frank Wegis was assigned to patrol and mop-up from ridge top along edge of burn northwest and back toward Eagle Peak Road. The balance of the men began cutting the indirect line near edge of fire into San Diego Canyon. Soon after this line was begun a heavy patch of brush flared up and it was necessary to draw the men back up the cut line and into the burned area. After watching the action of the fire and letting the area calm down, the men began cutting line again. I was near the head of this line, with Curran, Burrows and line men scattered back up the line to ridge top. The fire below was burning eratically, evidently due to mixed types, low humidity and changeable local wind conditions. It was decided, because of the above conditions, that our position was not safe and that we would move back up canyon about 200 yards and try to cut another line into the canyon. This plan was tried and it was necessary to pull out of this location for the same reason as the first line action.

We then began a third line into the canyon approximately 300 yards up canyon from No. 2 line. In the meantime, the fire was burning uncontrolled on the opposite slope of the canyon and working up the main San Diego River bottom. After our crews had cut No. 3 line down over the rock ledge and into the heavier brush approximately one-half way down the slope, the fire in the main canyon bottom crossed onto the side of the canyon we were on. The fire on our side of the canyon was working higher along the ridge top in our direction. At approximately 1530, it was decided by Curran, Burrows and myself to withdraw our men from the line they were cutting into the canyon back to the ridge top because of local unstable conditions making it unsafe to work in that location. Our men were then scattered along the main ridge top, where in the meantime a good dozer line had been made. The fire burned from No. 1 line to No. 2 line where it was held along dozer line.

As our crews were not equipped with lights, they were taken off the fire line at approximately 1730 to the Lewis Ranch to wait for transportation back to Pine Hills Camp. Curran remained on the dozer line near head of No. 3 hand line with a pumper truck and crew.

At apprximately 1900 two stakeside trucks and one pickup arrived at the Lewis Ranch with men to relieve our day crew. A man, whom I assumed was in charge of the crews and whose name I believe was Howard, asked me how far we had cut line on the "flat." I told this man that there was no flat, that the line was steep and rocky. Howard asked about the brush and I described it as being from waist high to "over your head." Howard and I then discussed tools needed with a man I believe to be Anderson. I recommended that 60 percent cutting tools and 40 percent scraping tools be used to which these men agreed. Howard remarked to the effect that they planned to continue cutting the No. 3 hand line that our crews had begun and to fire this line out. I replied that the wind was "tricky" and to talk the matter over with Curran who was still on the ridge top.

The night crews equipped themselves and were prepared to walk to the fire line when Burrows and I loaded our men into the 2 stakeside trucks and hauled them to Pine Hills Camp, arriving at approximately 2000.

November 30, 1956

PERSONNEL HISTORY STATEMENT

Region 5

NAME: Jack Dillingham

PRESENT ASSIGNMENT: Fire Control Aid (General), GS-6

DATE OF BIRTH: 4/1/14

EDUCATION: High School Graduate

EXPERIENCE:

5/55--Fire Control Assistant, Cuyama, Monterey, GS-5, GS-6
1/48-5/55--At Santa Barbara and Monterey districts, Los Padres, served as Fire Prevention Aid, SP-5; Fire Control Aid, SP-5 and GS-4; and headquarters assistant.
9/42-11/44--Worked on Los Padres as Assistant Forest Guard, Fire Suppression Guard, Telephone Operator, and Fire Crew Foreman.

COMMENTS: Has served in fire control positions beginning with fire guard on up to his present Fire Control Aid position. Is experienced and competent in fire prevention and suppression activities including firefighter experience in the Marine Corps. Has handled responsible district fire control activities capably.

For No. 203-R5

Date November 29, 1956 — SUMMARY OF FIRE QUALIFICATION CARD (FORM 85-R5) — Unit Los Padres

NAME (Full, as on payroll) (a)	Best Off-Forest Fire Assignment (b)	(c) Special Qualification				(d)															(e) Back Firing Specialist	(e)	Other Qualifications and Remarks (f)
		Rough Line	Hot Line	Mop Up Work	N-S Exper.	Fire Boss	Line ~~or~~ Boss	Sector Boss	Crew Boss	Cat Boss	Pumper Boss	Saw Boss	Plans Chief T	Records Off.	Line Scout	Timekeeper	Service Chief	Camp Boss	Cat Operator	Pumper Operat.			
Dillingham, Jack	Line Boss	(x)	(x)		N-S		(x)	(x)		(x)	(x)		T	(x)							(x)		Equip. Manager Line Inspector Packer and speaks Spanish fairly

CODE: T - Training Assignment; X - On-Forest Qualification; (X) - Off-Forest Qualification; N - Northern Calif. Exp.; S - Southern Calif. Experience. See reverse side for further instruction.

AGRICULTURE—FOREST SERVICE—SAN FRANCISCO

STATEMENT OF
DIVISION BOSS HOWARD

November 27, 1956

On November 25, 1956, at 7:30 a.m. I was dispatched to the Inaja Fire on the Cleveland National Forest. We were dispatched from the Norton Air Force base by bus and arrived at the Pine Hills Fire Camp at 11:30 a.m.

At approximately 5:00 p.m. I was called in to plans and given two fire organization charts by Ralph Bangsberg. I was also given two maps on to which I drew the approximate fire line for Division IV. I was to be division boss and had sectors G and H under my supervision. Ralph Bangsberg told me to check with Jack Curran (day division boss) when I arrived on the line for further instructions and condition of that division. The sector bosses were Glenn Robinson and Andy Anderson. The crew boss for Andy Anderson was Forrest Maxwell. The crew bosses for Robinson were Hubbard and Dragseth. I then talked to communication and got two H T radios which I put in a contract Hertz pick-up.

The two fire organization charts were given to Robinson and Anderson so that they could get their crew bosses and crews ready. When the crews were lined up and tools put in the truck, I learned that we had one crew of 20 men and the other of only 13 men. At this time I assigned the 20-man crew to Robinson because he had two crew bosses and the 13-man crew to Anderson. I then went into plans and informed Ralph Bangsberg that one crew had only 13 men instead of 20, as the assignment sheet stated. At that time I met Doc Davis who informed me that he would be in radio car 32 and that Dan Street of the 20-man crew was of sector boss quality. Doc Davis also informed me to park our vehicles at the Lewis Ranch. Robinson and I then got fusee and cherry bombs, which we put in the pick-up. We then loaded up and Dan Street informed Robinson that he was almost out of gas. We waited approximately 10 minutes for him to refuel and then left camp at approximately 5:45 p.m. (This time is fairly accurate as I had my watch broken and I asked the pick-up driver the time.)

No one on the crew knew exactly the location of our sector, but Ken Joseph knew the road we were to take, so he led off with his truck. Robinson and I rode in the pick-up next with the Hertz driver. Don Street with his crew followed in a stake-side truck. We proceeded to our division, occasionally stopping to find our location to make sure that we were going in the right direction. We arrived at the Lewis Ranch when it was completely dark and found the day shift located there. I was informed by someone there that Jack Curran was up on the hill burning out from the cat line. We then arranged for transportation of the day shift back to camp. I also informed crew boss Dragseth, with sector boss Robinson's permission, to go back with the pick-up when Jack Curran came off the line to pick up the lunches for our crews. The lunches were not ready when we left camp and, knowing that the morale of the crew is very important, I wanted lunches for the crew as soon as possible At that time I handed Robinson and Anderson the radios I had gotten in camp. Robinson and Anderson tooled up the crew while Hubbard and I carried the fusee and cherry bombs up to the fire line approximately 1/4 mile from the Lewis Ranch. We followed an old road and cat line from the Lewis Ranch

across a dam and up the hill. When we arrived at the top, I saw a tanker and its crew. They informed me that Jack Curran and their foreman were out on a point where the hand line left the cat line. I then met Jack Curran where the hand line left the cat trail.

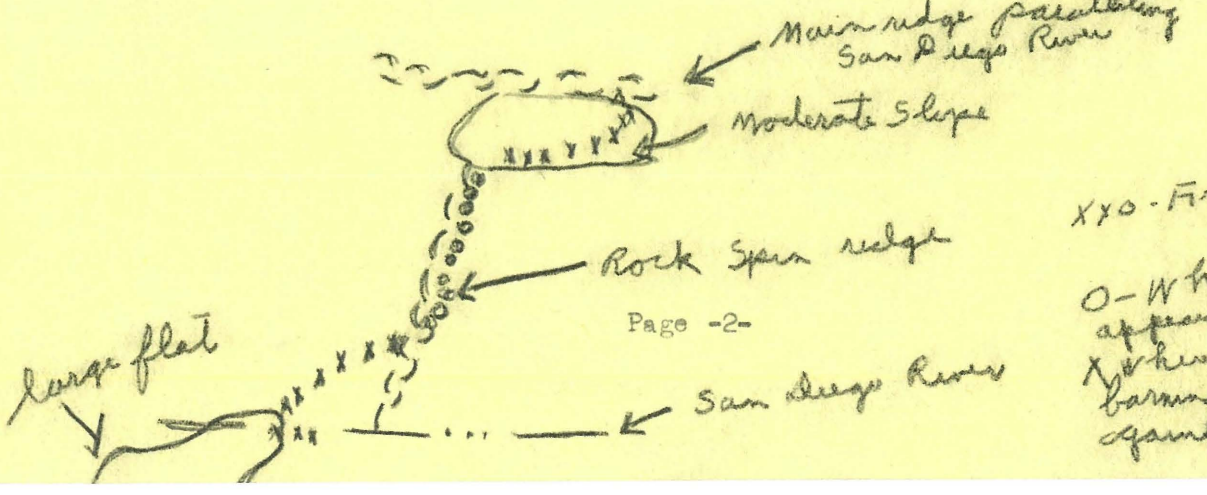
Jack Curran then informed me that sector H was fairly cold and also sector G to a point approximately 15 chains down the cat line east of where we were. At this time the crews arrived on the ridge and introduced Robinson to Jack Curran. Andy Anderson and Jack Curran had not met prior to this time. Jack Curran then informed us of the progress made during the day. This included burning out the line to a point approximately 10 chains down the ridge from where the hand line left the cat trail. Jack Curran, Robinson, Anderson and I then proceeded out the hand line to a point overlooking the San Diego River. Jack Curran said a hand line had been constructed over halfway down the slope toward San Diego River following a small ridge. His plan was to go down this ridge to flat and cut a hand line across this flat and then drop down into the San Diego River. At this time I decided, but discussed with the sector bosses, that Anderson would take his crew and complete cutting the hand line to the river, and Robinson, with the larger crew, was to burn out from where Curran left off burning. This was a reversal of the original plan because I had the opinion from Doc Davis that very little hand line had been constructed. Since the line was constructed over halfway to the San Diego River, I felt the change was necessary to complete the entire job of constructing and burning out the line more quickly.

The condition of the fire was as follows at approximately 7:00 p.m.:

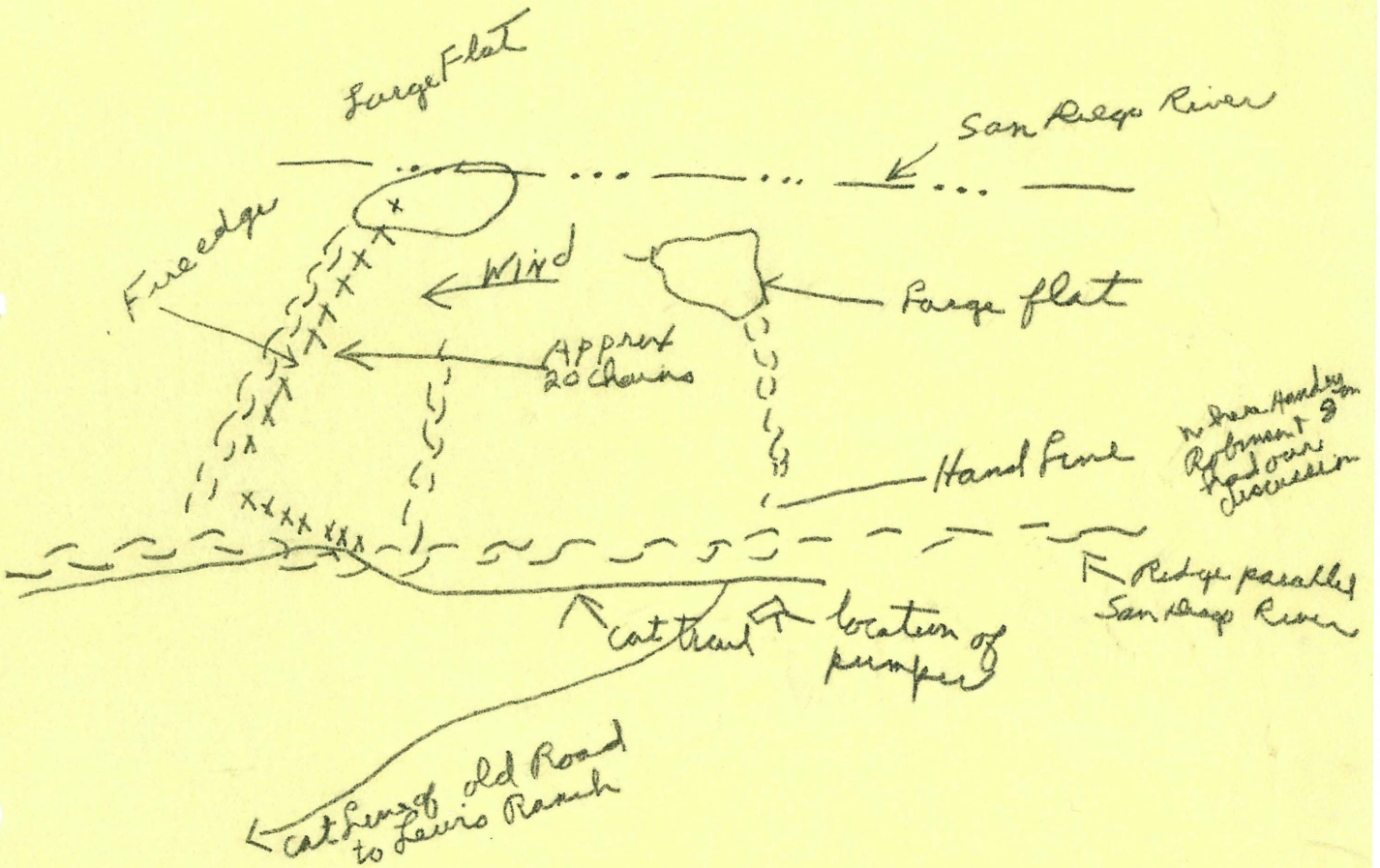
1. The wind was moderate (3-5 m.p.h.) on the side slopes. The wind was blowing in an easterly direction and down stream. This estimate was based on how the fire looked and direction of smoke.

2. The wind on the ridge was normally moderate but was gusty.

3. The fire almost directly across from us on opposite side of the San Diego River was burning very lightly up to the top of a spur ridge, where it seemed to completely die out. Jack Curran informed me that it was a rocky spur ridge and possibly that was what made it die out. The following is a rough diagram of the opposite slope:

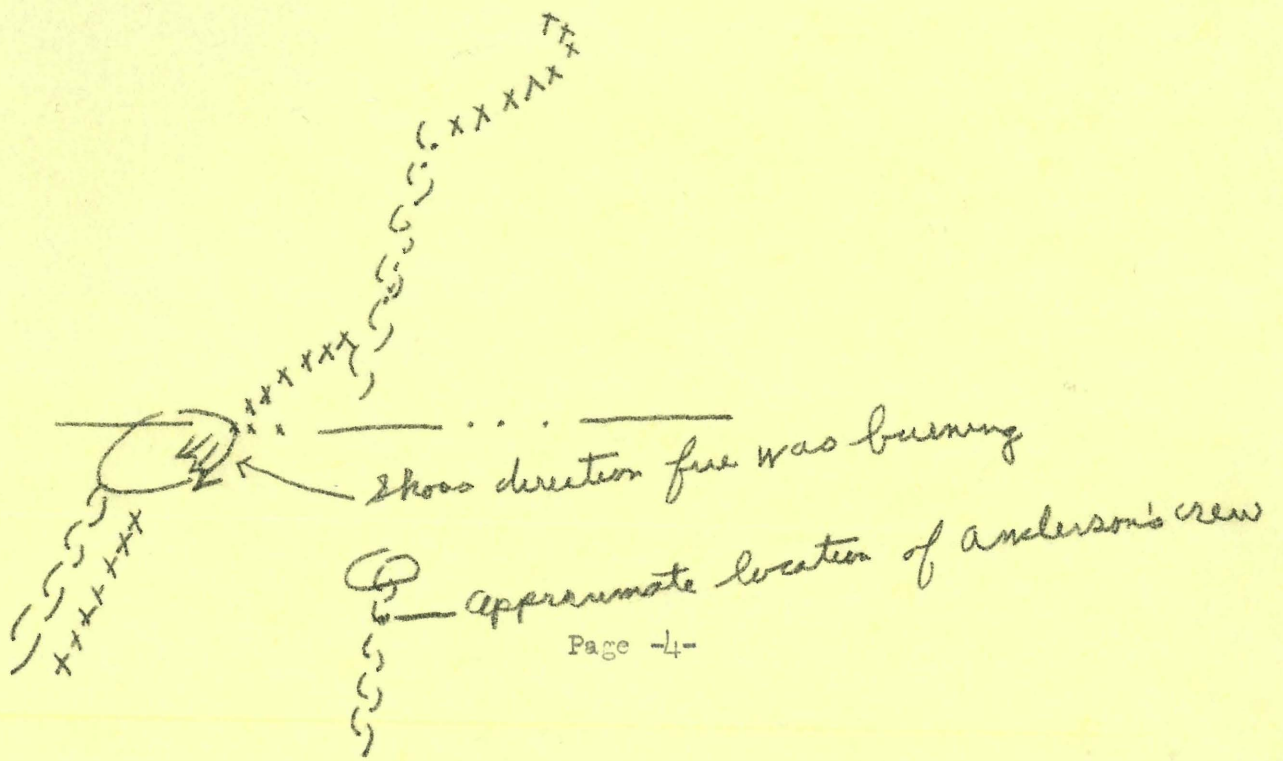

Main ridge paralleling San Diego River
Moderate Slope
Rock Spur ridge
large flat
San Diego River
XXO - Fire line
O - Where Fire appeared out
X - Where fire was burning slowly against the WIND

4. The fire on our side was burning very slowly against the wind and down a spur ridge downstream from us. The following is a rough diagram:



Anderson had the crew of 13 Viejas Honor Camp men with him plus a county guard and three Forest Service men. The Forest Service men were Maxwell, Joseph and Lingo, whom I never did meet. The men were equipped with headlights and each a tool. I recommended to Anderson that the men take a 60% cutting tool and 40% scraping. This is all I know about how his crew was equipped. The splitting up of the crew into cutting and scraping crews was left up to him.

I then proceeded down the ridge to where Glenn Robinson was burning out, Robinson was doing the burning himself. I walked back down the cat trail to where the cat line dipped over the ridge a few feet. I then came back and instructed Dan Street to move a couple men to this point. A few sparks would come back over the line when the wind would gust. I then went to the tanker and had them back up to a more favorable spot. I then got a fusee and helped Glenn Robinson burn by getting inside the cat line about 15 feet and setting fires. We proceeded very slowly to a point approximately 30 feet from where the hand line started. We then stopped to let the fire burn back in from the cat line. I then got the tanker crew and moved them up to a point just opposite from where the hand line started down the hill. I then told them to string some 1½" of hose out to the fire line. The crew did this and they put a siamese on the 1½" line and reduced one side to 1" to which they added 100' of hose. I then walked out to the point overlooking the river and observed that the fire was burning way down in the bottom on the flat I have shown on a previous diagram. I assumed that this was because the fire from the opposite side had creeped across the river and it made a run up the slope but in a downstream direction.



Glenn Robinson had come down while I was there or was there prior to my going down. All I know is that Robinson and I were there at one time together and that he left before I did. When I returned walking up the hill, a sudden gust sent some sparks across the ~~cat~~ line. I then instructed the man on the hose to cool down the fire, since I knew this corner was the most critical spot we would have in burning out. I then instructed some men to back off from the cat line about 20 feet to watch for sparks. Glenn Robinson called me at this time that it was time for the radio check. I then proceeded up the hill to where the radio was on the cat line. I remember seeing Robinson going out to the point again. Before I reached the radio I heard Robinson say that Anderson's crew was coming out. I proceeded to the radio and gave about two calls for Anderson.

I got no answer but assumed that the radio was off because Anderson was coming out. I then went back to the point and our backfire was burning very hot and throwing sparks across the line. I then hollered to the nozzle man to spray the fire. I then saw the flames in the bottom had reversed and were coming up the draw directly towards the point where we were standing. I then went back toward the nozzle man and told him to spray the fire because the water wasn't spraying. The nozzle man then shouted to me or someone else that he had no pressure. I then ran by him and shouted for more pressure and I heard the answer from someone that they were out of water. I then turned around and saw Ken Joseph and Dan Street coming from the point. There was a solid sheet of flame about 100 feet high behind them. Someone made the statement that the rest of them couldn't get out. I said something to Ken Joseph, I believe. What I said I don't know. I then ran back to the cat line and called all the men in Robinson's crew back who were running up the cat line towards the head of the fire. The time was approximately 8:05 p.m.

The next thing I remember was seeing four or five men with headlights come out up the ridge ahead of the fire. I ran to meet them as I think most everyone did. The only thing I can recall the men saying was that they didn't have a chance. I then went to the tanker and called fire camp and told them that I believed eleven men had been trapped. I then had Ken Joseph get the men who made it out to come to the tanker and stay there. Robinson and I then proceeded up the ~~cat~~ line and had Dan Street get most of his men to cold trail the fire after it died down. The fire died down after it hit the ridge top but the men were half-heartedly working. I think the reason they were up there was in hopes of seeing more men come over the hill.

Robinson and I then took a walk down an old road to the right going up the ridge. We discussed the situation and decided to go down to the point after it cooled down. We returned to the cat line and I went to the tanker and requested four cats, two more tankers and a complete new crew. I then left the tanker and started to the point where I met Robinson and Hubbard coming back out. All Glenn said was that, "Bill, you don't want to go down there." We proceeded up the hill and got the men and started back to Lewis Ranch.

When we got to the Lewis Ranch, I saw headlights coming in on the road. I left the group, not saying anything because I wanted to meet whoever was coming in. I met the Hertz pickup 100 yards up the road with our lunches. We unloaded the lunches and turned the pickup around. I told Dragseth I was going back to camp and to tell Glenn Robinson that I was going back to camp for transportation and other arrangements.

Wilbur V. Howard
ADR LaPorte District
Plumas National Forest

CL-F-8
Rev. 7-17-55

F I R E O R G A N I Z A T I O N

Name of Fire Inaja Date 11/25/56 On Shift (Day or Night) Night
Fire Boss McBride Service Chief Miller-Edwards
Line Boss Davis-Kraft Supply Officer Hastie
Plans Chief Bangsberg Camp Boss

Map & Records Trask-Lang Air Officer
Intelligence Jensen Equipment Officer
Scouts Communication Officer
Weather Officer Timekeeper
Safety Officer Tool Maintenance
Financial Officer Kitchen
Transportation Officer

Div. IV Div. Boss Bill Howard No. Men 46

Line Work Instructions Complete line and burn out

Sector G Sector Boss Robinson No. Men 20 Men Sent
Crew Bosses Huffard C H C Viejas
Dragseth
Street
Andy

Sector H Sector Boss Anderson No. Men 20 Men Sent
Crew Bosses Maxwell C H C Viejas

Sector Sector Boss No. Men Men Sent
Crew Bosses

Sector Sector Boss No.Men Men Sent
Crew Bosses

Sector Sector Boss No.Men Men Sent
Crew Bosses

Sector Sector Boss No.Men Men Sent
Crew Bosses

November 30, 1956

PERSONNEL HISTORY STATEMENT

Region 5

NAME: Wilbur V. Howard

PRESENT ASSIGNMENT: Forester (Administration), GS-7

DATE OF BIRTH: 11/3/26

EDUCATION: B. S. Forestry, University of Minnesota, 1951

EXPERIENCE:
4/55--Assistant District Ranger, LaPorte, Plumas, GS-7
5/54-4/55--Engineering Aid (Survey), Plumas, GS-5
12/52-5/54--Forester, Plumas, GS-5
7/52-12/52--For. Aid (TM), foreman of inmates on TSI work and fire, Plumas, GS-4
7/51-1/52--Forester, Plumas, GS-5

COMMENTS: He is listed in the Region as one of our promising and top GS-7 forest officers. Has drive, leadership, and capacity for growth. Has had his fire and timber training and handled F.C.A. responsibilities on a bad fire district and turned in an excellent job.

Harrison Gulch Ranger Station
Platina, California
November 30, 1956

On the 25th of November, 1956, I was dispatched from Pine Hills Fire Camp for duty on a sector team which was operating in conjunction with the sector team headed by Albert Anderson. The sector of which I was a crew boss had as its sector boss Glenn Robinson of the Klamath.

Our assignment as given to me was that Robinson's sector team was to fire out the line following Andersen's sector team down the hill. Anderson's team was assigned the job of completing the remaining hand line from approximately half way down the hill to the river bed. We arrived on the fire line at approximately 7:45 P.M. The fire was very quiet with little or no wind. Our line boss, Bill Howard, was briefed on the situation by the day line boss. The sector to which I was assigned began immediately to fire the line. Anderson took his sector team down the hill to begin cutting line.

The backfire was working perfectly. The draft created was drawing the flames back into the fire. We had just gone over the edge of the ridge when, without warning, at about 8:00 P.M., the fire came out of the canyon with a roar and approximately 100 to 150 acres of brush exploded. The five inmates who escaped ran out in front of the fire only four or five feet ahead of the flames. I was standing just on the edge of the [illegible] of the hill preparing to descend when the fire blew up so with my crew we had to run back to the Eagle Pass road to get out of the way of the fire, a distance of 100 to 150 feet.

When the fire cooled down, Sector Boss Robinson and I reentered the burn in an attempt to locate the men. We located the bodies in approximately a fifty foot circle about 200 feet below the ridge crest at the base of a rock bluff.

After finding the bodies, we were ordered off the line and returned to the Lewis Ranch for transportation to fire camp.

Richard G. Hubbard
RICHARD G. HUBBORD,
Forester.

December 1, 1956

STATEMENT OF RALPH ("ROWDY") JAMES - Staff Officer, Klamath NF

I arrived at the Pine Hills Guard Station Fire Camp at 2200, November 24, 1956, from the East Highland Fire on the San Bernardino. I was given no assignment that evening.

At 0700, November 25, 1956, I was assigned to the Sawday Camp, Division III, as Division Fire Boss. Carl Wilson of the C F & R E S was my Plans Chief. We arrived at Sawday Camp at approximately 0900. A camp had been set up but there were no personnel or overhead except some miscellaneous camp labor. Wilson and I looked over the camp setup and about 1000 hiked to some prominent ridges between Dye Canyon and the San Diego River Canyon to size up the fire and formulate control plans.

We returned to camp about noon. We found that our first crews would not arrive for several hours so Wilson returned to the area we had scouted and I went south of Camp to our division point in Dye Canyon to contact the CDF people. After discussing the fire and CDF plans with Mr. Smith, the CDF Division Boss, and arranging for him to lead our first crew thru the burn to a point we agreed to tie in which his hand crew, I returned to camp. Our first Zuni Crew arrived about 1500. We still had no food in camp but the Red Cross came in with donuts and coffee, and after this snack, I took Sector Boss John Watt and 25 Zunis to the line after giving him verbal instructions to tie into the burned-out area and continue toward the San Diego River rim. Our plan was to get the fire out of the Dye Canyon area and confine it to the San Diego River Canyon.

I again returned to scouting and met Wilson. Between 1600 and 1630, we tied into the CDF hand crew and our Zuni Crew.

We received word via radio that more Indians had arrived in camp, but we had no food and the men had not eaten since morning. I left Wilson with the line crew and returned to camp to get aerial tankers to drop on our line and expedite feeding and bring crews to the line.

Hot meals expected at 1700 did not arrive until 2100 so the camp boss and two cooks from one of the Indian crews cooked bacon and eggs for the two Indian crews and I took them to the line, arriving at approximately 1920. Wilson and I briefed Ted Nedhaus, the night line boss, on the plan of attack and cautioned him to work close to the fire and burn out as he went. He had the burn of the afternoon to fall back into, so there was no danger of being caught. I released John Watt and his crew to return to camp, and in a few minutes Wilson and I started back through the burn to our car.

As we left the line, someone mentioned seeing headlights on a line across the San Diego River. I glanced over and saw them faintly through the haze. When we were about 10 chains from where we left the night crew, I again looked across the canyon but could not see the lights because of smokey haze. I did notice a flare-up deep in the canyon. I told Wilson

we would stay and watch it for a moment. There were several other spots starting to flare up and the wind, which had been a steady northeast all day, suddenly changed to south or southeast about 5 MPH. We talked about it for a minute and deciding that it didn't look good, I tried to call someone on the east line at 1940. I called for "any radio on the east side of the San Diego River Canyon" several times. A radio finally answered and I told them that there was a flare-up under them on the river which looked dangerous. The answer was, "We will check on it." I tried several times more to contact the radio without success, then called the Pine Hills Fire Camp, trying to find out who was in charge on the line across the river. All I could get in answer was that we were 10-9.

In the meantime, the three main spots started generating and quickly combined into one large head 30 to 40 chains wide. The fire hit the top of the ridge at 2005, then there was what appeared to be a "flash back" which appeared to cover 20 to 40 acres to the north (upstream) from the canyon in which the fire blew up. I mentioned to Wilson that if the men had not gotten to the top of the canyon the flare-over was certain to have caught them. We checked our time when the blowup was over, it was 2010.

We remained at the spot discussing and checking what we had observed since we had a feeling that someone might have been caught in the blowup. At about 2025, I heard Bill Howard call Pine Hills Camp and say that some men had been trapped. He asked for a relief crew.

Wilson and I returned to our car and Wilson returned to camp for additional crews to backfire our line in Dye Canyon. I remained on the line until 0300 the next morning directing firing out operations and picking up slopovers.

When I returned to camp, Wilson had written out the information and observations we had concerning the blowup and had prepared a rough map. We checked both the writeup and the map together. The record of events and times are accurate and exact, as stated.

November 30, 1956

PERSONNEL HISTORY STATEMENT

Region 5

NAME: Ralph A. James

PRESENT ASSIGNMENT: Forester (Fire Control),GS-11

DATE OF BIRTH: 10/13/05

EDUCATION: B. S. Forestry, University of California, 1934

EXPERIENCE:
5/55--Fire Control Officer, Klamath, GS-11
5/52-5/55--Staff officer in fire control, Klamath, GS-9
7/48-5/52--District Ranger, Quincy, Plumas; Hat Creek, Lassen; Stonyford, Mendocino; P-3, GS-9
1/47-7/48--Direct blister rust control work, Klamath, P-3

COMMENTS: Has a good background. Capable in many fields. A strong and aggressive forest officer. Adaptable. Since being assigned to the Fire Control Officer job on the Klamath, he has made real progress in raising initial attack, preparedness, and prevention standards. Has demonstrated his ability in the control field on many occasions.

K
PERSONNEL-Klamath
James, Ralph A.

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT ON FIRE QUALIFICATIONS

RALPH A. JAMES

Mr. James has had the following major fire assignments in the past few years:

1. 1953 - Division Fire Boss, Sulphur Fire, Angeles National Forest. 7/4 to 7/10 1953.
2. 1953 - Division Fire Boss, Big Dalton Fire, Los Padres National Forest. 7/11 to 7/16 1953.
3. 1953 - Line Boss, Fish Canyon Fire, Angeles National Forest, 9/11 to 9/23 1953.
4. 1953 - Division Fire Boss, Houser Creek Fire, Cleveland National Forest, 10/5 to 10/10 1953.
5. 1956 - Line Inspector, City Creek Fire, San Bernardino National Forest, 9/24 to 9/27 1956.

All report indicate adequate performance on all of these assignments.

In addition, Mr. James had charge of a Zone on the Major Haystack Fire on the Klamath Forest in September 1955.

He is well qualified for any fire assignment in Region 5.

Form No. 203-R5

Date 7-1-56 — SUMMARY OF FIRE QUALIFICATION CARD (FORM 85-R5) — Unit Headquarters

NAME (Full, as on payroll) (a)	Best Off-Forest Fire Assignment (b)	(c) Special Qualification				(d)															Equipment Officer (e)	Air Officer (e)	Other Qualifications and Remarks (f)
		Rough Line	Hot Line	Mop Up Work	N-S Exper.	Fire Boss	Line or Div. Boss	Sector Boss	Crew Boss	Cat Boss	Pumper Boss	Saw Boss	Plans Chief	Records Off.	Line Scout	Timekeeper	Service Chief	Camp Boss	Cat Operator	Pumper Operat.			
Barkett Lewis Sr.	Mechanic																						Chief Mechanic
Berry George	"																						"
Crebbin Alfred K.	Plans Ch.				N-S	X							(X)				X						
Dally Harold	Air Cargo packer																						Carpenter-Rhsemon Cargo packer (air)
Davis Charles A.	None.				N-S			T	X					X									
Feustel Alva C.	Financial Adviser				N																		
Fisher Charles	Sector Boss		X	X	N-S			(X)															Communication Asst
Hornberger Stanley	Timekeeper															X							
James Ralph A.	FIRE Boss	X	X	X	N-S	(X)							(X)				(X)						Safety Officer
Landrum J.D.	Mechanic																						Pumper Mechanic
McNeil James	Cargo (Air) Chief				N-S													(X)					Supply Officer Cargo "
Norford Alva	Dispatcher Sector Boss	X	X	X	N-S		T	(X)							(X)			(X)					
Bradley James	Sector Boss	X	X	X	N-S		T	(X)									T				(X)	(X)	Equipment Manager
Tucker Frank																							

CODE: T - Training Assignment; X - On-Forest Qualification; (X) - Off-Forest Qualification; N - Northern Calif. Exp.; S - Southern Calif. Experience. See reverse side for further instruction.

AGRICULTURE—FOREST SERVICE—SAN FRANCISCO

STATEMENT OF KENNETH W. JOSEPH

DECEMBER 1, 1956

On the night of November 25, 1956, I was scheduled to take a group of pick-up laborers from Pine Hills fire camp out on the fire line, however since the previous shift, the group had disbanded, as the majority had gone home.

Carlton Lingo was the Forest Service crew boss with the Viejas Honor Camp crew, so I told plans chief (Cliff Miller) that since my crew of pick-ups had split-up maybe I could work with Lingo's crew, as they were just about to leave for the line. It was ok'd and I was told to go along for the night shift.

I do not recall the exact time, but it was just after dark when we left camp and both Viejas crews proceeded to the Lewis ranch where the crews were unloaded and tooled up. Bill Howard, division boss, notified Street, Lingo and myself that Glenn Robinson would be sector boss with Street's 20-man Viejas crew and A.W.Anderson would be the sector boss with Lingo's crew along with Forrest Maxwell, a crew boss from the Shasta Trinity. When we arrived at the fire line, I noticed a group of over-head talking and with A.W.Anderson and Lingo went over to see what was going on. I overheard Howard and the day-shift boss, Jack Kern from the Los Padres, talking about plans for the crews, after which Anderson told Lingo that his crew, Maxwell and I, together with him (Anderson) would finish an indirect line headed toward the river bottom. Street and his crew, with Robinson in charge, would start firing the cat line out and follow our line on down the hill, firing out as they went.

After we got down to where the day-crew had quite scraping, Anderson told me that he would take Lingo, as he was acquainted with all the fellows, and head down to where the day-crew had quite cutting brush. Lingo and his crew with cutting tools, would finish cutting the line to the river bottom. Maxwell and I were to take the men with the scraping tools and finish the day-crew's line and follow Anderson's line to the bottom. Anderson said he thought it would be a good idea to keep our eyes on the firing crew behind us.

About ten or fifteen minutes after Anderson took Lingo and his crew to where the day crew had stopped, Anderson yelled to Maxwell,"Forrest come down here a minute". Maxwell left, leaving me with the scraping crew working down the hill. I told the crew "Really scrap it clean" and stayed with them for a few minutes. I saw they were working smoothly, so started up the hill to check the line as a whole for the firing crew behind with the idea of finally contacting Street. I might also add that Bill Howard and A.W. Anderson were to check with each other every hour by handi-talki radio.

The terrain was so rough that I was forced to stop several times for a short rest as I walked over the line. When I got to the top of the big out-cropping or rocks, where the line took a sharp turn to the right, I looked back down into the canyon and could see that the fire was heating up and had made a few small runs up the canyon. Just about that time the fire in the bottom of the canyon made a good hot run toward the hill the men were working on. I then knew there was definately some danger to the men building the indirect line, so I yelled to Lingo: "Lingo start the men out". Lingo replied with something like "OK". At that time I noticed that the crew quit work and started up the hill. I watched for a minute or two and saw that the fire was really starting to heat up and that when it got to the steep slope would really move fast. So again I yelled to Lingo: "Lingo, hurry up". Lingo answered; "We are hurrying". At that time the fire started making a run up the canyon on the right of the men below me and I could still see they were moving along, and then before I knew it the fire was in front of me on the bluff. There had been an unknown man standing with me, who, as the flames flared up, dashed through in front of the flames and I saw Danny Street standing on the other side of the flames yelling; "Joe get of there". So I went dashing through in front of the flames. Danny got water through his hose and started cooling down the flames, which by this time had cut off the crew coming up the hill from using the line as an escape route. The fire flared up in front of Danny Street and myself and we made another dash for the top of the ridge.

I don't remember how long it was before I saw some men come running out on top of the ridge ahead of the fire. I thought they had all gotten out, but then saw that there were only five or six of them. They said the men behind were trapped and couldn't get out.

After the fire cooled down a little, Glenn Robinson went back down the line to see what happened. He came back and told us that the men were dead, that he could see the bodies laying on the line. We got the crews together, pulled ourselves together and Bill Howard and Glenn Robinson took us down the hill to the Lewis ranch where we waited for transportation which took us into the Pine Hills fire camp and then on into Escondido.

I do recall on incident previous to going down the line: Danny Street, crew boss with the 20-man Viejas crew remarked to me as we looked down into the canyon; "Kenny, I don't like the idea of going down there". I told him; "I don't either, Danny". Thinking to myself that Jack Kern of the Los Padres, who really knows his fire and had been there all day and must have thought it Ok, as he knowns more about the situation than we did. I said something to that effect to Danny.

Kenneth W. Joseph
Crew Foreman
Descanso Ranger Station

KENNETH W. JOSEPH

July 1, 1952 to Aug. 30, 1952 - Fire Control Aid (Gen.) GS-2

June 9, to Sept. 21, 1953 - T.T.O. Descanso Ramger Station GS-3

May 23, 1954 - 676 Appt. GS-4 FCA (Crew Foreman)

Dec. 19, 1954 Converted to Perm. Appt. - GS-3 Fire Control Aid (Gen.)

March 1956 - Promoted to GS-4 - Fire Control Aid (Crew Foreman)

Assignments:

July 1, 1952 - Hotshot Crew - Mt. Laguna

Aug. 30, 1952 - Transferred to Descanso Ranger Station as N.T.O.

Sept.1, 1952 - Promoted to T.T.O. Terminated October 31, 1952, close of season.

June 9, 1953 to Sept. 21, 1953 - T.T.O. Descanso

May 23, 1954 - Cameron Fire Crew Foreman

June 1, 1955 - Laguna Fire Crew Foreman

Aug. 19, 1955 - Transferred to Descanso as Fire Crew Foreman

May 1, 1956 - Descanso Fire Crew Foreman

FIRE PARTICIPATION RECORD OF KENNETH W. JOSEPH

1952 - 1956

1952:

Name:	Date:	Class:	Forest or District:	Fire Assignment:
South Fork	7-10-52	E	San Bernardino N.F.	Hotshot
Guatay	7-19-52	A	Descanso R.D.	Hotshot
Dye Canyon	7-27-52	D	C.D.F.	Hotshot
Santa Rosa		E	C.D.F.	Hotshot
Berger	8-6-52			Hotshot
Kroonen	8-16-52	C		Hotshot
Melville	8-16-52		C.D.F.	Hotshot
Oak Valley	8-24-52	C	Descanso R.D.	Hotshot
Carvacre	8-26-52	E	Descanso R.D.	Hotshot
Los Flores	9-6-52		Descanso R.D.	N.T.O.
Martin	9-17-52		C.D.F.	T.T.O.
Brabizon	9-28-52	A	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Cottonwood	10-5-52	A	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Viejas Bridge	10-6-52	A	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Oliver Ranch	10-14-52	A	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Flinn Springs	10-28-52	C	C.D.F.	T.T.O.

1953:

King Creek	6-14-53	C	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Caliente	6-15-53	A	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Sheephead		C	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Panel's Drive	6-25-53	A	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Dehesa	6-28-53	E	C.D.F.	T.T.O.
Willows	7-1-53	B	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Sequan No. 2	7-2-53	E	C.D.F.	T.T.O.
Chiquito	7-8-53	C	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Arnold Way	7-11-53		C.D.F.	T.T.O.
Rocky Hill	7-11-53		C.D.F.	T.T.O.
Brabazon	7-30-53	C	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Legg	8-3-53	B	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Morena Valley	8-10-53	D	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.

FIRE PARTICIPATION RECORD OF KENNETH W. JOSEPH

1952 - 1956

1954:

Name:	Date:	Class:	Forest or District:	Fire Assign.
Castle 'Air	6-3-54	C	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Foss Ranch	6-14-54		C.D.F.	" "
Stephenson Peak	6-26-54	B	Descanso R.D.	" "
Morena Lake	7-5-54		Descamso R.D.	" "
Clary Ranch	7-9-54	A	Descanso R.D.	" "
Bennett	7-10-54		Descanso R.D.	" "
Indian Cemetery	7-16-54		Cleveland(Palomar)	" "
Escondido	8-8-54	B	Descanso R.D.	" "
Horsetheif	9-1-54	C	Descamso R.D.	Crew Boss
Peterson Canyon	9-3-54	D	Descanso R.D.	Crew Boss
Jameson	9-6-54	E	Cleveland	Crew Boss
Sable	9-21-54	E	Angeles	Flamethrower Oper
Wadsworth	9-11-54	B	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Spring	9-28-54		Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman

1955:

Name:	Date:	Class:	Forest or District:	Fire Assign.
Escondido Ravine	6-16-55	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Switzer	7-15-55	E	Angeles	Crew Boss
Glencliff	7-28-55	D	Descanso R.D.	Crew Boss
Garbani	9-3-55		Descanso R.D.	Crew Foereman
Lyons Peak	9-4-55		Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Haystack	9-6-55	E	Klamath N.F.	Crew Boss
Baron Long	10-6-55	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Viejas Indian	10-7-55	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Corral Canyon	10-23-55		Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Viejas Valley	11-7-55	A	Descamso R.D.	Crew Foremmn
Viejas Mt.	11-7-55	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman

FIRE PARTICIPATION RECORD OF KENNETH W. JOSEPH

1952 - 1956

1956: Name:	Date:	Class:	Forest or District:	Fire Assignment:
Engineers Road	3-11-56	E Cleveland-Palomar		Crew Foreman
Sherilton Ranch	6-5-56	A	DescansoR.D.	Crew Foreman
La Posta	6-11-56	B	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Bowers	6-24-56		Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Dalton	6-25-56	E	Angeles N.F.	Crew Boss
Stewart	7-10-56	B	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Pine My. Inn	7-15-56	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Sweetwater Bridge	7-15-56	C	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Old Highway	7-15-56	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Anahuac	7-23-56	D	Cleveland	Crew Foreman
Juro	8-6-56	C	Cleveland	Crew Foreman
Harbison Can. #4	8-8-56	C	C.D.F.	Crew Foreman
Cameron	8-22-56	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Chappell	8-28-56	C	C.D.F.	Crew Foreman
Sycamore	8-29-56	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
North Peak	9-3-56	C	C.D.F.	Crew Foreman
Pine Mt.	9-9-56	E	Cleveland	Crew Boss
McKinley	9-21-56	E	San Bernardino N.F.	Sector Boss
Reservation	11-1-56	C	Descanso R.D.	Crew Boss
Orchard	11-4-56	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Baron Long	11-11-56	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Francis	11-15-56	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman

November 24, 1956

STATEMENT OF ROBERT S. McBRIDE - Fire Control Officer, Cleveland NF

On or about 10:00 a.m., I received a call from Walt Birch, Dispatcher at Escondido that we had a potential project fire at Pine Hills. It was about 75 acres. I immediately called Puhn and Miller and left for the fire.

I arrived at Pine Hills about noon, met "Doc" Davis and discussed fire action. We had a helicopter, but couldn't get off the ground because of the strong east winds. We decided on a flanking attack with a strong effort to pickup the rear of the fire. We felt our fire camp should be at Pine Hills Fire Station.

"Doc" Davis and I then spent several hours scouting out the fire by driving along the roads on both flanks. Our first trip was out over the Eagle Peak truck trail and down pass the Lewis Ranch. Several tankers were making an effort and doing a fair job of picking the fire up along the truck trail. It had sloped over the road near the Nichols Ranch. We also made a trip over the Boulder Creek truck trail and Dick Raybould was making good headway and picking up the south flank of the fire.

I met Supervisor Puhn at Pine Hills and arranged with him to take over the fire as fire boss. There was no ranger available on the district as he was in the process of moving to Berkeley.

All night Saturday, we worked at getting men and equipment out on the fire line as fast as ~~it~~ 7:24 came in. Most of this was local help. I realized we would have to use all available local help during the afternoon and night shift. Our plan was to accumulate outside overhead and manpower for the Sunday day shift.

During the evening I heard from Puhn who had contacted the State Division of Forestry that we would handle the fire on the south from the San Diego River east. On the north we would handle the fire from the Sawday truck trail east. This meant that we would have to handle both sides of the river, consequently, I made plans for a fire camp on the Sawday Ranch.

My staff during this period was Cliff Miller - Service; "Dike" Landweer - Plans; and "Doc" Davis - Line Boss. Lloyd Britton was liaison with the State on the Barona side.

Sunday, November 25, 1956 -

"Dike" Landweer and I worked out the plans for the day shift and I did most of the briefing. I selected Jack Curran to take the tough sector in the Lewis Ranch area and Stubby Mansfield to handle the tough sector in the Boulder Creek area. Harold Stratton handled the rear sectors.

I met Curran at the Lewis Ranch and gave him a general ideas as to the plan of action. I told him we wanted the line connected between Lewis Ranch and the River Bottom. The fire was burning on a ridge to the west of the ranch. A strong east wind was blowing. I think I told him Rowdy James would be coming down the other side. I looked across the canyon and the fire on the Sawday side wasn't doing much.

I returned to camp and gave Rowdy his assignment. I told him he would have a Division on the west side of San Diego River. He would tie in with State on the Sawday truck trail and try to pick up the fire going into the Canyon. He was informed a camp was set up near Sawday Ranch and he would have 100 Indians in as soon as possible. Wilson was to be his Plans Chief and Milt Lloyd his Service Chief. I told him he would have to work out many things by himself. In other words he was to be a fire boss on this particular piece of line.

During the night we failed to close the gap on the rear of the fire in Cedar Creek. It started giving us considerable trouble so Bob Cron and I worked with the crews on this area. After I was satisfied the boys were going to pick it up, I left for Mansfield's Sector.

I had selected Ralph Bangsberg for the Day Plans Chief and before leaving camp I gave him a general idea of what we would need for the night shift. I told him the area around camp would have to be burned out, also Cedar Creek would have to be burned out and held and that it was a bad spot. I told him the other hot spots were on the ends of the flanks going into the San Diego River.

At this time I was more concerned with the Tule Springs part of the fire as our scouts informed us the fire had gotten around the Eagle Peak ridge and was burning in Boulder Creek. It crossed Boulder Creek and made a run towards Tule Springs.

Late in the afternoon Landweer and I met Mansfield at Rancho Alegria. We drove out on a point overlooking Boulder Creek. The fire was down in a steep canyon making runs upon Eagle Peak on the north. The south side was burning slowly up the side of the canyon. We then drove to the southwest end of the fire down in the river bottom. The fire had not crossed the Tule Springs truck trail. It was burning very hot between Boulder Creek and the Tule Springs Experimental area in Isham Creek.

At dusk, we met Nelson and Puhn at Tule Springs and I told them I planned to set up another camp in the Tule Springs area to handle the southwest corner of the fire. I felt we could pick the fire up in this area, but my biggest concern was with Boulder Creek. We did not want the fire to work back into this drainage.

3-Statement of Robert S. McBride

I selected Morrison "Jim" James to head this division of the fire. Mansfield would be his line boss.

It was late when I got back to Pine Hills Camp and I spent several hours getting a run down on who had come in (outside overhead and manpower). Also a review of night plans and getting organized for the day shift on Monday.

About 8:15 p.m. I received word from the radio operator that a call had come from the line that a crew had been run out and some men may have been lost. I talked to Howard about this, and he told me they were on Sector G and the fire had run the crew out. They were making a count of the men, but he thought 3 men had been lost and they needed help. I immediately placed a call for George Roskie, Fire Safety Officer, to take over the rescue and investigation.

About 9:20 p.m., Robinson called me by radio and said he had come up from the line and that they had lost 15 men. He said he saw quite a few bodies.

I sent George Roskie and Jack Weddle, Safety Officers out with a Navy doctor (Lt. L. M. Morrissett) and a crew of 3 corpsmen to help on the disaster. Roskie and Weddle were to start an investigation of the accident. I immediately called Puhn to let him know of the disaster.

Between 9:30 and 10:00 p.m., I checked again with Robinson and he said Anderson and Maxwell were missing. Also a CHC officer. He didn't know his name.

At 10:10 p.m., Bill Stewart brought in five inmates. They were survivals - F. Servidio, C. Netzke, A. Evans, H. Sloane and N. Y. McGee. Bill didn't know what happened. He just brought the fellows in.

Howard came in at 10:20 and said he was shook up and wanted to go home. He confirmed Anderson and Maxwell as missing. He didn't think Lingo was with them. There was a CHC foreman (officer) down the hill with the men. According to Howard there were 13 inmates, an officer and 2 Forest Service men below him. Only 5 inmates came out.

I discussed the accident with Johnny Bye, a correction officer, who had been on the line. He is the CHC liaison officer. We checked his list and it looked like the inmate victims were:

Miles Daniels	Joe P. O'Hara
William Fallin	Lonnie Sheppard
George Garcia	Joe Tibbetts
Virgil Hamilton	Lionel Wood

He said the correction officer was Jack Wehrung.

At 11:50 p.m. I asked Irwin Bosworth to go with Don Lewis and help the coroner. Bosworth was to be liaison officer between the camp and the coroner.

Monday, November 26 -

Roskie and Weddle arrived in camp with Street and Joseph. This was 12:30 a.m. They brought inmate Wood in with them. He was a survivor we didn't know about. Lingo's death was confirmed. Roskie and Weddle said they counted 11 bodies.

A Navy detail was sent out to help the coroner pickup the bodies.

I remained on the fire throughout the next day. Jay Peterson came down from the Angeles and I went over the fire plans with him. Also drove about the fire acquainting him with action in progress. He took over about 5:00 p.m. in order that I might devote my time hwlping with the investigation of the accident.

EXPERIENCE OF ROBERT MC BRIDE, CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST

DATE	TITLE	UNIT	LOCATION
7/34 - 3/37	Senior Leader	CCC	Four Camps in So. Cal.
4/37 - 10/37	Technician	CF & RES	Glendora
10/37 - 3/45	Lookout, Patrolman, Dispatcher, Fire Control Ass't.	Angeles	Glendora
3/45 - 4/46	U. S. Navy	Seaman 1/c	
6/46 - 2/49	Student (During this period also worked part-time as Clerk, Scaler & Research Aid	University Cal. Berkeley CF & RES	 Berkeley
2/49 - 5/50	Research Aid	CF & RES	Berkeley
5/50 - 10/50	Forester	Six Rivers	Gasquet
10/50 - 5/51	Fire Control Ass't.	Six Rivers	Gasquet & Orleans
5/51 - 2/52	Ass't. Ranger	Six Rivers	Orleans
2/52 - 3/55	Dist. Ranger	Shasta	McCloud Dist.
3/55 - 9/56	Dist. Ranger	Sierra	Kings River Dist.
9/56 - 12/56	Fire Control & Resource Officer	Cleveland	San Diego

FIRE FIGHTING EXPERIENCE - 1949 TO 1956

Year	Name of Fire if Known	Forest	Size as A, B, C, D or E	Actual Assignment as: Crew Boss, Serv. Chief, Scout, etc.
1949	Eye Creek	Shasta	-	Crew Boss
	Harris Mt.	"	C	None
	Horse Peak	"	D	Crew Boss
	Cold Creek	"	A	TTO
1950	Rock Creek	6-Rivers	D	Scout, Fire Boss
	Pappes	6-Rivers	E	Scout, Sec. Boss, Fire Boss
	Elk Creek	Siskiyou	E	Scout, Liasion Officer
	Stony Ford	Mendocino	E	Sec. Boss
	-	6-Rivers	4 A's	FB
1951	Gold Hill	Los Padres	E	Transportation Chief
	Lavajo-Black	"	E	Sec. Spec. Back Fire, Sec. Boss
	3-Creek	6-Rivers	E	Rec. Officer, Liasion, Div. Fire Boss
	Jackson Cabin	Modoc	E	Scout
	Notice Creek	6-Rivers	D	Fire Boss
1952	AshCreek Sink	Shasta	C	Fire Boss
	Cahle Camp	Shasta	B	Fire Boss
	-	Shasta	5 A's	Fire Boss
	O'Brien -Lorenzen Rdge	Shasta	2 Fires	Investigator
1953	Rattlesnake	Mendocino	E	Camp Boss
	-	Shasta	3 B	FB
	-	"	3A	FB Investigator 6 Fires

EXPERIENCE OF ROBERT MC BRIDE, CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST

Year	Name of Fire if Known	Forest	Size as A,B, C,D or E	Actual Assignment as:Crew Boss, Serv. Chief, Scout, etc.
1954	Mott	Shasta	D	Misc - trouble shooter
1954	Brownell	Eldorado	E	Division Boss
1954	Sable	Angeles	E	Plans
"	Park	Los Padres	E	Plans
"	Rifle Range	Shasta	D	F.B.
"	District Fires		1-A & 1-B	Misc.
1955	Backbone	Sierra	D	Plans Chief
1956	Pine Mt.	Cleveland	E	Unassigned - observer
1956	Cornwell	"	E	" "
1956	Inaja	"	E	Fire Boss

KENNETH W. JOSEPH

July 1, 1952 to Aug. 30, 1952 - Fire Control Aid (Gen.) GS-2

June 9, to Sept. 21, 1953 - T.T.O. Descanso Ramger Station GS-3

May 23, 1954 - 676 Appt. GS-4 FCA (Crew Foreman)

Dec. 19, 1954 Converted to Perm. Appt. - GS-3 Fire Control Aid (Gen.)

March 1956 - Promoted to GS-4 - Fire Control Aid (Crew Foreman)

Assignments:

July 1, 1952 - Hotshot Crew - Mt. Laguna

Aug. 30, 1952 - Transferred to Descanso Ranger Station as N.T.O.

Sept.1, 1952 - Promoted to T.T.O. Terminated October 31, 1952, close of season.

June 9, 1953 to Sept. 21, 1953 - T.T.O. Descanso

May 23, 1954 - Cameron Fire Crew Foreman

June 1, 1955 - Laguna Fire Crew Foreman

Aug. 19, 1955 - Transferred to Descanso as Fire Crew Foreman

May 1, 1956 - Descanso Fire Crew Foreman

FIRE PARTICIPATION RECORD OF KENNETH W. JOSEPH

1952 - 1956

1952:

Name:	Date:	Class:	Forest or District:	Fire Assignment:
South Fork	7-10-52	E	San Bernardino N.F.	Hotshot
Guatay	7-19-52	A	Descanso R.D.	Hotshot
Dye Canyon	7-27-52	D	C.D.F.	Hotshot
Santa Rosa		E	C.D.F.	Hotshot
Berger	8-6-52			Hotshot
Kroonen	8-16-52	C		Hotshot
Melville	8-16-52		C.D.F.	Hotshot
Oak Valley	8-24-52	C	Descanso R.D.	Hotshot
Carvacre	8-26-52	E	Descanso R.D.	Hotshot
Los Flores	9-6-52		Descanso R.D.	N.T.O.
Martin	9-17-52		C.D.F.	T.T.O.
Brabizon	9-28-52	A	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Cottonwood	10-5-52	A	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Viejas Bridge	10-6-52	A	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Oliver Ranch	10-14-52	A	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Flinn Springs	10-28-52	C	C.D.F.	T.T.O.

1953:

King Creek	6-14-53	C	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Caliente	6-15-53	A	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Sheephead		C	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Panel's Drive	6-25-53	A	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Dehesa	6-28-53	E	C.D.F.	T.T.O.
Willows	7-1-53	B	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Sequan No. 2	7-2-53	E	C.D.F.	T.T.O.
Chiquito	7-8-53	C	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Arnold Way	7-11-53		C.D.F.	T.T.O.
Rocky Hill	7-11-53		C.D.F.	T.T.O.
Brabazon	7-30-53	C	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Legg	8-3-53	B	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.
Morena Valley	8-10-53	D	Descanso R.D.	T.T.O.

FIRE PARTICIPATION RECORD OF KENNETH W. JOSEPH

1952 - 1956

1954:

Name:	Date:	Class:	Forest or District:	Fire Assign.
Castle 'Air	6-3-54	C	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Foss Ranch	6-14-54		C.D.F.	" "
Stephenson Peak	6-26-54	B	Descanso R.D.	" "
Morena Lake	7-5-54		Descamso R.D.	" "
Clary Ranch	7-9-54	A	Descanso R.D.	" "
Bennett	7-10-54		Descanso R.D.	" "
Indian Cemetery	7-16-54		Cleveland(Palomar)	" "
Escondido	8-8-54	B	Descanso R.D.	" "
Horsetheif	9-1-54	C	Descamso R.D.	Crew Boss
Peterson Canyon	9-3-54	D	Descanso R.D.	Crew Boss
Jameson	9-6-54	E	Cleveland	Crew Boss
Sable	9-21-54	E	Angeles	Flamethrower Oper
Wadsworth	9-11-54	B	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Spring	9-28-54		Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman

1955:

Name:	Date:	Class:	Forest or District:	Fire Assign.
Escondido Ravine	6-16-55	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Switzer	7-15-55	E	Angeles	Crew Boss
Glencliff	7-28-55	D	Descanso R.D.	Crew Boss
Garbani	9-3-55		Descanso R.D.	Crew Foereman
Lyons Peak	9-4-55		Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Haystack	9-6-55	E	Klamath N.F.	Crew Boss
Baron Long	10-6-55	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Viejas Indian	10-7-55	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Corral Canyon	10-23-55		Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Viejas Valley	11-7-55	A	Descamso R.D.	Crew Foremmn
Viejas Mt.	11-7-55	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman

FIRE PARTICIPATION RECORD OF KENNETH W. JOSEPH

1952 - 1956

1956: Name:	Date:	Class:	Forest or District:	Fire Assignment:
Engineers Road	3-11-56	E Cleveland-Palomar		Crew Foreman
Sherilton Ranch	6-5-56	A	DescansoR.D.	Crew Foreman
La Posta	6-11-56	B	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Bowers	6-24-56		Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Dalton	6-25-56	E	Angeles N.F.	Crew Boss
Stewart	7-10-56	B	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Pine Hy. Inn	7-15-56	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Sweetwater Bridge	7-15-56	C	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Old Highway	7-15-56	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Anahuac	7-23-56	D	Cleveland	Crew Foreman
Juro	8-6-56	C	Cleveland	Crew Foreman
Harbison Can. #4	8-8-56	C	C.D.F.	Crew Foreman
Cameron	8-22-56	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Chappell	8-28-56	C	C.D.F.	Crew Foreman
Sycamore	8-29-56	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
North Peak	9-3-56	C	C.D.F.	Crew Foreman
Pine Mt.	9-9-56	E	Cleveland	Crew Boss
McKinley	9-21-56	E	San Bernardino N.F.	Sector Boss
Reservation	11-1-56	C	Descanso R.D.	Crew Boss
Orchard	11-4-56	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Baron Long	11-11-56	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman
Francis	11-15-56	A	Descanso R.D.	Crew Foreman

STATEMENT OF WALTER J. PUHN - Forest Supervisor, Cleveland NF

"Statement of the use of San Diego County Honor Camp inmates for forest fire fighting"

San Diego County for many years has maintained two honor camps of approximately 100 men each in the Cleveland National Forest - Viejas Camp near Descanso and San Jose Camp near Lake Henshaw. A third camp (Montezuma) is now operated outside the Cleveland.

Established primarily for the construction of county roads, the Viejas and San Jose Camps have turned increasing effort toward forestry work under the guidance of the U. S.Forest Service and California Division of Forestry. In addition to fire fighting, inmate crews have been used on roadside brushing, campground maintenance, fire breaks, and a miscellaneous forest improvement jobs. Firebreak construction is under cooperative agreements between the County and the Division of Forestry and U. S. Forest Service, sponsored by the Citizens Forestry Study Group and the Board of Supervisors. All other work, except fire fighting, is done when inmate labor is available above the needs of the County.

Fire fighting by inmates has been done since the establishment of the camps. This is covered by nearly identical cooperative agreements between the County and the two forestry agencies. These agreements permit the use of Honor Camp crews on fires when so requested by either forestry agency. They further provide that crews can be directly dispatched by the agency to fires enroute or at the fire to tool them and direct their activities.

The Honor Camps give the inmates on-the-job training in connection with project work. This work, mostly firebreak construction and road brushing is, of course, typical of their fire fighting work. It is Honor Camp policy to put green men with experienced men in the crews and to never send a completly green crew to a fire.

The level of fire fighting experience among inmates is high because of the many fires and the repeaters that are returned to camp. Supervisory personnel are well experienced with some being on fires frequently for many years.

I regard the Honor Camp within an "Initial Action Zone", a radius of 30 airline miles of each camp. The Inaja Fire started within the initial action zone of both camps. Traditionally, the fire requests take precedence over all other work of the camps.

Both forestry agencies pay the County under the agreements 90¢ per inmate man-hour of firefighting, mileage of county trucks, and the prevailing crew boss rate of the engaged Honor Camp supervisory

personnel. The County pays the inmates and supervisory personnel the indicated amounts after deducting ten percent for administrative costs. No payment is made to the County for the non-fire project work.

Inmates are in the status of volunteers. They can refuse to fight fires, but such instances are extremely rare. Fire fighting morale is exceedingly high and inmates are proud of their abilities and accomplishments.

Honor Camp crews are invariably dispatched to all Cleveland National Forest fires in San Diego County which threaten to escape initial attack. The camp locations are ideally located for this and all of the forest within San Diego County is in the "Initial Action Zone" of one or both camps. As a consequence, the dispatches are frequent, and by the time of the Inaja fire, the Honor Camps had put in 22,622 man hours of fire fighting for the Forest Service since the first of this year. Division of Forestry use of County inmates is ordinarily much less than that of the Forest Service inasmuch as they first dispatch from the several State Honor Camps.

During the fire season the Cleveland has a top foreman assigned to each camp. This foreman usually directs the forestry improvement work of a 20-man crew, the fire fighting of that crew, and the fire fighting safety training and fire prevention of all inmate crews in his assigned camp. He gives direct, on the job, safety training to his assigned crew which is equipped with Forest Service truck and fire tools. At weekly intervals he is given all inmates for safety training through medium of talks and films.

All crews other than the assigned "hot shot" type crews, go to the fires in county trucks. A Forest Service crew boss is dispatched with tools to join each such crew, either crew being among the most effective and skilled available to us and not far behind our own and the organized Indian crews.

November 30, 1956

PERSONNEL HISTORY STATEMENT

Region 5

NAME: Glenn S. Robinson

PRESENT ASSIGNMENT: Fire Control Aid (General), GS-7

DATE OF BIRTH: 5/5/25

EDUCATION: High School Graduate

EXPERIENCE:

5/53--Fire Control Assistant, Seiad, Scott River, and Yreka districts, Klamath; GS-5, GS-6, GS-7

4/50-5/53--Fire Control Aid (Gen.), Happy Camp, Klamath, GS-3, GS-4

12/48-4/50--Fire Crew Foreman, SP-5, GS-4, Happy Camp, Klamath

6/46-12/48--Worked on Klamath Forest part time (most of each year) as Fire Control Aid, SP-4, Skilled Laborer, SP-5.

COMMENTS: A dependable, competent, non-technical forest officer. Has back of him a fire record and much experience in the broad field of fire control. Has served his apprenticeship in fire control and has achieved the top grade of GS-7 Fire Control Aid based on demonstrated ability, knowledge, and personal characteristics.

November 27, 1956

STATEMENT OF SECTOR BOSS GLENN S. ROBINSON:

On November 25, 1956 at 0730 AM, I left Norton Air Force Base enroute to the Inaja fire located on the Cleveland National Forest. The means of transportation was a chartered bus with approximately twenty-five(25) Forest Service personnel. The chief of party was Jim James who had a list of the Forest Service personnel and their fire qualifications.

The bus arrived at the Pine Hills fire camp at approximately 1130 AM on November 25. I then went and ate lunch with the rest of the Forest Service personnel after checking in with the timekeeper. After eating lunch I waited in the yard of the Guard Station where the fire camp was set up and visited with other Forest Service personnel many of which was from the various Northern Forests.

At approximately 5:00 PM on November 25, Bill Howard called to me and told me that I was assigned to his division as a Sector Boss. At that time Bill handed me a copy of our assignment for the night shift; he also asked me if I knew Andy Anderson. I told him that I did and that I would locate him and notify him of our night shift assignment. I then located Anderson and, after getting together with Bill Howard again, we located the two crew bosses Hubbard and Dragseth, Shasta-Trinity personnel, who had been assigned to my Sector. Maxwell at the time was with Anderson. Bill Howard told Anderson and myself that the crews were almost ready and the tools were already in the boxes on the trucks.

The two Sector teams then went over to the trucks where the men were loading. Bill Howard told Anderson and myself to wait near the trucks, that he wanted to go back into Plans to get a little more information, if possible, on the line condition where we were going. In a few minutes Bill came back and said we were ready to go. A short delay occurred at this point when Dan Street, foreman of one of the crews, mentioned that his truck was almost out of gas; after filling the truck with gas the two trucks loaded, and a pickup furnished for extra transportation. We left for the Lewis Ranch which was as far as the trucks could drive.

At approximately 1830, after dark, we arrived at the Lewis Ranch and unloaded the crews. Bill Howard then asked me if I would have one of my crew bosses, Dragseth, go back with the pickup to fire camp and make sure that the lunches were brought back to our crews. This had to be done because, upon leaving fire camp, the lunches had not arrived for the night crews. I then notified Dragseth to return to fire camp with the driver of the pickup.

When all men were ready with their tools I informed Dan Street, Foreman of the twenty-man crew assigned to my sector, that we would start up the hill first. The crew had a tendency to bunch up as we started up the hill toward the fire line.

I then stopped and informed Dan Street to space his men ten feet apart and make sure they carried their tools in their hand. Dan informed his men and after this was done we continued on up the hill toward the fire line.

Upon arriving on the ridge top near the fire line, which was a bulldozer constructed line, I stopped the crew and informed Dan Street to hold the men there until I called. Anderson then came up to where I was and, together, we walked up the cat line to a point where the hand line commenced. At this point we met Bill Howard and I was introduced to Jack Curran. Jack was describing the work that his crews had accomplished during the day and mentioned that they had gone better than half way into the canyon with the hand line, and that there was a flat just below where they had stopped working. He suggested that we continue straight across the flat, that the going was good.

The condition of the main fire at this time was as follows: The fire was burning slowly on the east side (the side that we were on) of the canyon dying down in many places, approximating a quarter of a mile from where the hand line went off into the canyon. This is very hard to estimate because of looking off into the darkness of the canyon. The west side of the canyon was burning approximately one third of the way up the mountain side, and burning near the top which appeared to be a large bench. The area in between appeared to be almost out.

The weather condition was as follows: On the ridge where we were standing the wind was blowing from a northeasterly direction into the fire area. Gusty at times. There appeared to be very little wind down in the canyon and smoke was drifting down canyon. The decision was made that Anderson's crew would continue the hand line into the canyon and the crew that I had would commence burning out the line and would continue carrying the burning out on down into the canyon. I then set my watch with Anderson's, the time being 1918. We agreed to establish a radio check at five minutes to the hour. The first check being made at 1955 and, if needed, we would establish a half hour schedule. I then mentioned to Anderson to take a few fusees just in case they were caught in a bad place and might have to burn their way out. After this was done I went back to the twenty-man crew assigned to my sector team and informed the crew bosses that we would commence burning out the cat line, starting approximately eight chains down the ridge where the fire had ended previously. I then informed Dan Street to space his men out along the cat line to watch for spots in case of a sudden shift of wind. After this was done I took a fusee and commenced burning along the cat line, carrying the firing out up the ridge toward the hand line. The fusee ignited the fuels easily and the wind carried the fire into the area which we were burning out. Bill Howard and myself agreed that upon nearing the hand line we would continue very slowly with the firing around the bend where the hand line took off because of the hand line being partially on a slope. This was carried out as we progressed down the hand line.

As a safety measure in case of spots or a sudden shift in wind the pumper crew ran a hose lay down the hand line. The firing out was nearing the point where the hand line took directly down the mountain side when I heard Street mention that the pumper was out of water. Prior to this time the pumper had not pumped any water during the firing out of the line. I then walked over to a point where I could look into the canyon. Shortly after I was there Bill Howard joined me and we discussed the location of the bottom of the fire in relation to the river. I then went back, up the hand line to check on the burning. Shortly after this time I noticed that the wind had shifted in the canyon and the main fire was heating up and beginning to make a run. I went down the hand line to a point where I could look down the line and saw several headlights coming up the hill. I was certain then that the men were on their way out. I then went back to the ridge top and a few minutes later the run started to come up. Flames went into the air approximately a hundred feet. I tehn requested the men off the hand line and told them to get back over the ridge on the safe side near the cat line. After the fire hit the ridge top, I felt certain in my mind that none of the men made it out. Shortly after some one yelled that there were men coming out over the ridge higher up from where I was standing. There appeared to be five men that came over. I remember hearing one man mention that he looked back and saw the fellow behind him throw up his arms to shield the heat.

Approximately 20 minutes later I walked through the burn accompanied by a Shasta C.B., Hubbard. We walked to the point where we could look down the hand line and directly below us in the rocks we could see bodies laying. We then went back to where the men were all located and I mentioned to Bill Howard that we had better move on down to the ranch. This was done because I didn't want any one else to look down at the sight that I had just seen. I was mainly concerned in getting the men away from the area at that time. I continued on down towards the ranch behind the crews and, arriving at the tanker, called Robert Lang and informed him that I had just returned from inside the burn and that I had seen the bodies. I requested ambulances and Bob informed me that the Forest Service would not handle. He requested the names of the Forest Service personnel and asked me to wait for the Safety Officers. When they arrived I directed them into the area.

The above is a true statement.

Glenn S. Robinson
F.C.A. Oak Knoll (Klamath N.F.)

K
PERSONNEL-Klamath
Robinson, Glenn

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT ON FIRE QUALIFICATIONS

GLENN ROBINSON

Mr. Robinson has had the following major fire assignments during the past few years:

1. 1952 - Six Rivers Forest, Windy Fire, Sector Boss 6/1 and 6/2 1952.
2. 1952 - Shasta Forest, Sugarloaf, Sector Boss 10/6 to 10/8 1952.
3. 1953 - Angeles National Forest, Fish Canyon Fire, Sector Boss, 9/11 to 9/22 1953. (Performance reported as outstanding on this assignment.
4. 1954 - Stanislaus National Forest, Spinning Wheel Fire, Division Line Boss, 7/30 to 8/1 1954.
5. 1954 - Mendocino National Forest, Pellini Fire, Sector Boss, 9/27 to 9/29 1954.
6. 1954 - Sierra National Forest, Footman Ridge Fire, Sector Boss, 10/17 to 10/20 1954.
7. 1955 - Angeles National Forest, Switzer Fire, Sector Boss, 7/18 to 7/21 1955.
8. 1955 - Angeles National Forest, Oaks Fire, Sector Boss, 8/22 to 8/26 1955.
9. 1956 - Prescott Forest, Region 3, Mingus Mt. Fire, Sector Boss, 6/16 to 6/24 1956.
10. 1956 - San Bernardino, East Highline, Cat Boss, 11/20 until transfer to Inaja Fire, Cleveland.

All reports showed adequate to superior performance. In addition, Mr. Robinson had major fire assignments on the Klamath as follows:

1951 - Three Devils, Sector Boss.
1952, 53 & 54, Numerous Small Fires.
1955 - Jacobs Ladder Fire, Line Boss.
1955 - Richardson Fire, Line Boss.
1955 - Haystack Fire. Division Fire Boss under Supervisor Dasman, who reported outstanding performance.
1956 - Deadhorse Fire, Fire Boss. Did an excellent job with limited resources.

Mr. Robinson is well qualified for any fire line assignment in Region 5.

Form No. 203-R5

Date 7-1-56 SUMMARY OF FIRE QUALIFICATION CARD (FORM 85-R5) Unit Yreka

NAME (Full, as on payroll) (a)	Best Off-Forest Fire Assignment (b)	(c) Special Qualification				(d)																(e)	(e)	Other Qualifications and Remarks (f)
		Rough Line	Hot Line	Mop Up Work	N-S Exper.	Fire Boss	Line or Div. Boss	Sector Boss	Crew Boss	Cat Boss	Pumper Boss	Saw Boss	Plans Chief	Records Off.	Line Scout	Timekeeper	Service Chief	Camp Boss	Cat Operator	Pumper Operat.	Strawboss		
Lang Jack	St. Boss	X			N				X												(X)		
Martin Thomas	Timekeeper															(X)							Radio op.
Murray John R.	Crew Boss				N				(X)					X				•					
Nickols Lauren	—															T		T					
Nute Richard	Crew Boss	X	X	X	N-S			T	(X)														
Phelps James E.	St. Boss				N				T												(X)		
Raymond Lloyd	" "				N				T												(X)		
Robinson Glenn	Line Boss	X	X		N-S		(X)			(X)	(X)				(X)								
Robinson Walt Sr.	Crew				N				X														
Sanford Earl	St Boss				N															X	(X)		TTO
Synow Joseph	—																						not physically able to fight fire. Good LO
Trimm Walter	Sector Boss	X	X		N-S		X	(X)		(X)									X				
Weyrick Richard	Trainee			X	N				T												X		

CODE: T - Training Assignment; X - On-Forest Qualification; (X) - Off-Forest Qualification; N - Northern Calif. Exp.; S - Southern Calif. Experience. See reverse side for further instruction.

AGRICULTURE—FOREST SERVICE—SAN FRANCISCO

November 27, 1956

STATEMENT OF GEORGE ROSKIE - Staff Officer (Resource), Los Padres NF

On Sunday evening, November 25, 1956, I was acting in the capacity of Safety Officer on the Inaja Fire on the Cleveland Forest. While in the vicinity of Sawday Camp I received a radio call to return to Pine Hills Fire Camp. The call was received at approximately 8:30 p.m.

I drove directly to Pine Hills Fire Camp and was told by Bob McBride, the Fire Boss, that some members of a fire crew near the Lewis Ranch had been burned. He asked me to go to the Lewis Ranch and meet Glenn Robinson and check on the reported accident. He also asked Jack Weddle who had just arrived from the East Highland Fire on the San Bernardino Forest to go with me.

Inasmuch as the condition of any survivors was unknown, we took Dr. Marsh of the Navy Medical Corps and three camp men along with a navy ambulance. We left Pine Hills Camp at approximately 9:30 p.m. and arrived at the Lewis Ranch shortly after 10:00 p.m. With Glenn Robinson we proceeded to the scene of the accident and made a thorough search of the area. We found eleven bodies all within a radius of about 100 feet approximately 100 yards from the cat line where the tanker had been located. No effort was made to identify any of the bodies and we covered as many as possible with the blankets brought along.

After a brief discussion with Glenn Robinson, it appeared that we had found them all as the five survivors of the crew of sixteen had apparently been accounted for. We then went back down the cat road about one quarter mile to the Lewis Ranch and questioned Danny Street, Kenneth Joseph and other members of the crew about the identify of survivors. Inasmuch as the County Honor Camp guard with the crew, one of the victims, had the list of names in his pocket, a complete check could not be made until we returned to camp. However a preliminary check showed the eleven men to be three Forest Service employees, A. W. Anderson, Forest Maxwell and Carlton Lingo, one guard and seven inmates of the Viejas County Honor Camp. Some of the survivors had already returned to camp. The remaining survivors, as well as the other Honor Camp crew which had been working along the top of the ridge above the accident, were very upset and not too coherent in their accounts of what had happened.

Inasmuch as a complete check of the identity of the survivors could not be made at the scene, we all returned to the Pine Hills Fire Camp arriving about 12 midnight. Jack Weddle and Irwin Bosworth from the Plumas Forest returned approximately 1-1/2 hours later and aided the San Diego County Coroner and Sheriff's deputies in removing the bodies. Jack Weddle and I returned on Wednesday morning, November 28, and remarked the location of the bodies with white crosses of paper for identification in the aerial pictures taken of the area.

2-Statement of George Roskie

Additional information gathered from informal discussion with survivors the night of the accident and since has either been documented or presented by other witnesses to the pertinent facts in the case.

11/27/56

November 30, 1956

PERSONNEL HISTORY STATEMENT

Region 5

NAME: George F. Roskie

PRESENT ASSIGNMENT: Forester (General), GS-11

DATE OF BIRTH: 8/28/12

EDUCATION: B. S. Forestry, Montana State University, 1936

EXPERIENCE:
7/54--Los Padres staffman responsible for resources and improvements, GS-11
3/52-7/54--Los Padres staffman responsible for recreation resource, GS-9
7/49-3/52--Plumas staffman responsible for range, wildlife, and recreation, P-3 and GS-9
11/42-7/49--District Ranger Deerlodge and Lewis & Clark National Forests, Montana, SP-7, P-2, P-3

COMMENTS: A sound forest officer with demonstrated ability as ranger and forest staff officer.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF FIRE EXPERIENCE
FOR GEORGE F. ROSKIE
SAFETY OFFICER - INAJA FIRE .

My experience on large fires started officially in 1931 as a line fire fighter on the Leanto Ridge, Hemlock Butte and Smith Mt. fires on the Clearwater Forest in Region One. These were all what we now consider class E fires. My next major fire experience was a ten day stretch as scout on the Pete King fire in Region One in 1934.

Starting with 1937 on the Couer d'Alene Forest in Region One I have been on fires every season up to the present. During the period 1937 to 1941 I was on most of the class E fires on the Couer d'Alene and a number off forest, usually as crew boss, scout or sector boss. From 1941 to 1942 I was Ass't. Ranger on the Custer Forest and from 1942 to 1949 Ranger on the Lewis and Clark and Deerlodge Forests. As Ranger I was fire boss on all the fires on my district and usually sector boss on off district or off forest fires. During this period the two largest fires I worked on were the Judith River (2000 acres) and the Sun River (3200).

In 1949 I transferred to the Plumas Forest at Quincy as grazing staff officer, and in 1952 to the Los Padres as Resource Officer. Following is a brief recap of some of the larger fires I have worked on in Region Five and the position held on thef fire.

Year	Fire	Forest	Position held
1949	Beckwourth Peak	Plumas	Sector Boss
1949	Hosselkus	Plumas	Sector Boss
1950	San Marcos	Los Padres	Sector Boss
1950	Beckwourth	Plumas	Plans Chief
1950	Milford	Plumas	Plans Chief
1950	Crystal Peak	Plumas	Plans Chief
1951	Milk Ranch	Plumas	Service Chief (Milk Ranch Camp)
1952	Anastasia	Los Padres	Plans Chief
1953	Big Dalton	Los Padres	Records
1954	Frazier Park	Los Padres	Records-Intelligence
1954	Devils	Los Padres	Supply
1955	City Creek	San Bernadino	Safety Officer
1955	Webb Fork	Angeles	Plans -(one shift)
1955	Thompson Peak	Shasta Trinity	Camp Boss (PackerCr.)
1956	Pine Mountain	Cleveland	Plans Chief
1956	Inaja	Cleveland	Safety Officer

George F. Roskie, Resource Officer
Los Padres N.F.

December 1, 1956.

For No. 203-R5

Date November 29, 1956 SUMMARY OF FIRE QUALIFICATION CARD (FORM 85-R5) Unit Los Padres

NAME (Full, as on payroll) (a)	Best Off-Forest Fire Assignment (b)	(c) Special Qualification				(d)															(e)	(e)	Other Qualifications and Remarks (f)
		Rough Line	Hot Line	Mop Up Work	N-S Exper.	Fire Boss	Line or Div. Boss	Sector Boss	Crew Boss	Cat Boss	Pumper Boss	Saw Boss	Plans Chief	Records Off.	Line Scout	Timekeeper	Service Chief	Camp Boss	Cat Operator	Pumper Operat.	Safety Officer		
Roskie, George F.	Safety Officer- & Plans Cheif				N-S			(X)				(X)		(x)	(X)		(X)	(x)			(x)		

CODE: T - Training Assignment; X - On-Forest Qualification; (X) - Off-Forest Qualification; N - Northern Calif. Exp.; S - Southern Calif. Experience. See reverse side for further instruction.

AGRICULTURE—FOREST SERVICE—SAN FRANCISCO

STATEMENT OF DANNY STREET

DECEMBER 1, 1956

On November 25, 1956 we left Pine Hills fire camp about 5:30 P.M. and went to the Lewis ranch with two crews from the Viejas Honor Camp. There were twenty men in one crew and thirteen in the other.

We left Lewis ranch to go up to the fire line at about 7:00 P.M., we looked the situation over and met the line-boss from the day shift. I walked over to the edge of the San Diego River canyon and came back and stopped Kenny Joseph; I told him that the line didn't look safe enough for my crew to go down. I said that I wouldn't go down. He said "The line doesn't look safe to me, but the crewboss knows what he is doing". The thirteen-man crew with three overhead and one guard went down into the canyon. The twenty-man crew stayed to patrol the backfire operations. I placed my men in pairs along about a two-hundred foot line, and then I went to the edge of the canyon and was using the hose to protect the brush from the backfire.

One of my men came to ask me if I needed more hose, said that he could get me a couple of links. I told him no.

The backfire was getting hot and one of my men jumped through the fire to me from below. I lost pressure on the hose and began to spray the fire with what water I could get by gravity. I could see Kenny Joseph standing on the other side of the fire. He turned around and came through the fire to me and said "Lets get the hell out of here." I said "No you go ahead, I am going to try and put out some more of this fire with what water I have." Just then a big flare-up came to the side and I had to go up the hill about twenty feet. Kenny said " lets get out of here" and I said "No I want to look this over".

Another flare-up came and we had to go up to the top where my men were. I counted them and they were all there. I then went down to the cat line and knelt down to see if I could hear anyone down below. I saw five head-lamps coming through the fire toward me. They were from the crew below. One of the men said "The rest aren't going to make it". I just stood there and after a while Glenn Robinson asked me if I wanted to try to identify some of the men who were killed. I told him that I didn't. After he came back from looking at the bodies we returned to fire camp.

Danny L. Street

Danny L. Street

Assignments and Qualifications Danny L. Street

Employed Aug. 4, 1953 Fire Control Aide GS-2 Crewman
676 termination Nov. 14, 1953

Employed Mar. 24, 1954 Fire Control Aide GS-3 TTO

12/19/54 Converted to Indefinate appt. GS-3 FCA (Gen)

5/20/56 Promoted to Fire Control Aide (Crew Foreman) GS-4

Assignments

Aug. 4 to Nov. 14, 1953 Crewman, Descanso RS
Acting TTO, Alpine Station

March 24, 1954 Tank Truck Operator, Descanso RS
Acting Foreman, Descanso RS

1955 Season Acting Foreman, Descanso RS 2 mo.
Foreman, ~~////~~ GS balance of season
Cameron

1956 Season Fire Crew Foreman Alpine until Sept.
Acting Honor Camp Foreman, Viejas Camp present assignment

Fire Assignments Danny L. Street

Date	Name of Fire	Size	Dist. of Forest	Assignment
8/10/53	Morena Valley	C	Descanso	Tanker
9/7/53	Sheephead	C	Descanso	"
9/24/53	Fitzgerald		State	"
9/30	Martin		Non-stat	"
10/4	Bronco Flats	E	Descanso	"
10/6	Indian	C	Descanso	"
10/8	Brown	A	Descanso	"
10/2	Clark	A	"	"
7/9/54	El Monte		Non-stat	"
8/8	Escondido Rav.	A	Descanso	"
9/1	Horsethief	C	Descanso	Crew boss
9/3	Fink	B	Palomar	Tanker
9/24	Panorama	E	San Bernardino	Transportation
5/25/55	Morena Village	A	Descanso	Tanker
9/4	Harbinson Canyon		non-stat	"
9/5	Haystack	E	Klamath	Crewboss
10/23	Corral Canyon	B	Descanso	Tanker
11/7	Viejas Valley	A	Descanso	"
11/7	Viejas Mtn.	B	Descanso	"
11/8	Elliot	A	"	"
1/19/56	Perkins	A	"	"
3/6	Engineers Rd.	C	Palomar	Crewboss
5/16	Harbison Can	A	Descanso	Tamker
6/3	Japatul	A	Descanso	"
6/24	Bowers	B	Palomar	"
	North Peak	E	CDF Palomar	Crew boss, tanker
7/15	Sweetwater Bridge	C	Descanso	" "
7/15	Old Highway	A	"	Tanker
7/25	Willows	A	"	"
	Gravel Pit	A	"	"
8/11	Curo	C	"	"
9/9	Pine Mtn.	E	Palomar	~~Crewboss, Sector Boss~~ FALLING CREW
9/23	McKinley	E	San Bernardino	Crew boss, Sector Boss

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : FOREST SUPERVISOR-Cleveland **DATE:** November 26,1956

FROM : A. J. WEDDLE - Safety Officer

SUBJECT: K-SAFETY-General

Herewith is my report on my preliminary investigation of the accident on Sector G Sunday night.

I arrived at Pine Hills Camp at 2130 and was immediately sent out with Safety Officer Roske to investigate and confirm report of blow up and trapped men.

We arrived at Lewis Ranch approximately 2200 where we met Glenn Robinson, Sector Boss from Klamath National Forest. We took with us the Navy doctor and several corpsmen. While enroute we were stopped by a rancher who said tanker 310 had a dead battery down by the dam (Lewis Ranch).

Robinson took us up the hill and out along the line. We found eleven (11) bodies. I walked down the fire line looking for more. I found only abandoned tools. I was unable to identify any body at the time. Robinson said he was the Sector Boss on G, with 20-man crew. Bill Howard was the Division Boss and Anderson with 13 CHC men. As we walked in we noted burned hose along the line.

Robinson stated he was firing out along the cat line on top of the hill where the road up from Lewis Ranch hits the top of the hill. "The fire was laying down, wind was down canyon like now" (Gusty 8-12 N&W). He also stated the fire was across the small drainage. He kept repeating "they knew as soon as we."

Some one had taken all the survivors back to camp except one. I talked to Woods on way home and he said "the yell came from above to get out. We had just started to work and I was waiting for them to get lined out." I interviewed Robinson's crew and got names of the survivors and ones they thought were missing. The list I compared with the head guard back in camp.

I went back to Pine Hills Camp and was immediately sent back to guide in the Coroner.

On the way back to Lewis Ranch I met Orwin Boswort of the Plumas. He joined me as we waited for the Coroner.

2-FOREST SUPERVISOR November 26,1956

Around 1:00 AM the Coroner arrived and we started moving out the bodies. It was very hard work and I called for more help - a 13 man Navy crew arrived. The morticians were told by the Coroner to place all personal effects in the sheets with body. The next day when I went back to the site I noticed lot of effects left, such as Anderson's hard hat.

Around noon you asked me to go back and mark the spots of the bodies - this I did. I noticed most all of the headlamps were in the off position. I walked 200 yards down the hill looking for tools. Found only one brush hook, 2 canteens, 2 McLeods about 100 yards below the bodies - the lowest one being just below a small cliff.

Arthur J. Weddle
District Ranger
Mendocino National Forest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST

ADDRESS REPLY TO
FOREST SUPERVISOR
AND REFER TO

F
SUPPRESSION
Inaja (E) Fire
11-24-56

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
732 North Broadway
Escondido, Calif.
November 26, 1956

To Whom It May Concern:

On November 25, 1956, I was assigned by Fire Boss McBride of the Inaja Fire as Plans Chief of the Sawday Division. Division Fire Boss Ralph (Rowdy) James and I arrived at Sawday Camp at about 9:00 a.m. Later James and I scouted out the potential fire lines between Dye Canyon and San Diego River. (At this time we had no line overhead or labor.)

We scouted ridges for line locations between about 10:00 a.m. (Est.) and 11:00 a.m. (Est.) and returned to camp around noon.

During the early afternoon I returned to points that James and I had visited in the morning for the purpose of locating possible dropsites for the air tankers.

I arrived at the Dick Peak Swale at 4:15 p.m. (estimated) after meeting Rowdy James, who was also scouting out fireline locations along this ridge. We walked over to the head of the CDF handline (see map) and observed that our 25-man Zunis Indian Crew Sector Boss John Walt was having difficulty in constructing cold trail line down the fire line southeasterly toward San Diego River. So, James called Walt and the crew and started them constructing hand line along the line A-B in a northeasterly direction. The fire was moving up the slope from the direction of San Diego Canyon and started to hit the ridge top in narrow fingers.

At about 4:15 p.m. the air tankers began to make drops of borate along the upper portion of the CDF lines. A total of 4 drops were made before the action was shifted to the A-B sector. Six drops were made between 4:45 p.m. (est.) and 5:20 p.m. (est.) All were made on target and were very effective in retarding spread of the fire.

(continued on page 2)

James returned to Sawday Fire Camp after the fourth drop, and I remained with the 25-man Zuni Crew. At 6:30 p.m. (est.) the fire became more active, and I called the crew back from their line construction assignment and asked the foreman, Walt, to place his crew along the fire line, preparatory to a back-firing, burning-out operation. At 6:30 p.m. (est.) I began to burn out the fringe of brush between our constructed fire line and the main body of fire coming up out of San Diego Canyon. I remarked to Walt at this time, "Well, we have an up-canyon wind," (southwesterly) and Walt said, "Isn't it supposed to be "down canyon" at night?" and I agreed. Prevailing wind during the day had been northeast and easterly. We continued the burning-out and back-fire operation as the fire kept hitting our line. At 7:15 p.m. (observed), the main fire crossed our handline at a turn in the line while I was back-firing, and I pulled the men back down to hold the lower section. The wind velocity at this time was 5-10 m.p.h. from the southwest and was still blowing upslope. Relative humidity reading, as read on my "color spot" indicator card was 10-15% at 7:30 p.m. (est.)

Division Fire Boss Rowdy James arrived at the scene with fresh men at 7:20 p.m. (est.), and he and I prepared to return to camp. I noted that our slopover from the recent blow-up on our line was fairly active for a while, then would die down. At about 7:35 p.m. (est.), Rowdy and I noted that there were headlamp lights across the San Diego River Canyon on the west facing slope (see map). We also observed that there was a button-hook of fire down below the lights. This portion of the fire was flaring up and looked potential dangerous for any manpower who might be above it. Rowdy and I talked the situation over, and we decided that an attempt should be made to contact the man on the east side of the San Diego River and tell them of their problem. At 7:40 p.m. (measured) Rowdy called several times and finally his call, "Anyone from the crew on the east side of the San Diego River," was acknowledged. Rowdy said something like this, "There is some hot stuff down below your line flaring up. Do you know about it? It looks dangerous." The reply came back, "We'll check on it."

At 7:40 p.m. (measured) the lower hot spot (No. 1) became very active and started to move up slope toward the headlamps we had seen. (By now there was so much light we couldn't see the lamps." Shortly afterward spot No. 2 became active and began to spread up-slope. The 3rd spot (No. 3) also flared up at about the same time. By 7:50 p.m. (measured), all three spots were very active. At 8:05 (measured) the main body of fire in the blow-up hit what I thought was the bottom of the handline where the lights had been seen. At 8:10 p.m. (measured), the entire wall of fire about 40 chains wide hit the top of the ridge which appeared to be about 60 chains above spot No. 1. (See attached sketch) The roar of the fire was easily audible

(continued on page 3)

at our observation point. The wind continued to blow from the southwest and upslope at observation point "Y". (See map) At about 5-10 m.p.h., our slopover, in the meantime, was becoming very active, and it was obvious that it could not be controlled with the crew we had available, and we probably would have to fire from the road below. (see map)

At about 8:30 p.m. (est.), we heard traffic on our radio during which we heard a man who identified himself as Howard say that the line had blown up, and he had gotten up to the top with only _____ men. I couldn't read the exact number.

In the meantime, I took two color photographs of the blow-up, using a Kodak Camera F-3.5 lens at 1/25 second exposure. The first shot was taken at 8:00 p.m. (estimated) and the second at 8:15 p.m. (estimated)

James and I returned to the road. He stayed with the CDF crews and made plans to backfire from the road. I returned to the Sawday Fire Camp to get more manpower for the backfire job. While in camp picking up overhead, I heard over the radio that 15 men had lost their lives in the blow-up James and I observed.

Carl C. Wilson

SKETCH OF FIRE PERIMETER OF SAN DIEGO RIVER GLOW-UP (2010, 11/25/04)

CCW: 1500
11/26/04

40 ch. (EST)

Est. location of headfire

30 ch. (EST)

60 ch. (EST)

N

① ② ③

5-10 mph

KEUFFEL & ESSER CO.
4 X 4 TO THE INCH
MADE IN U.S.A.
358-1

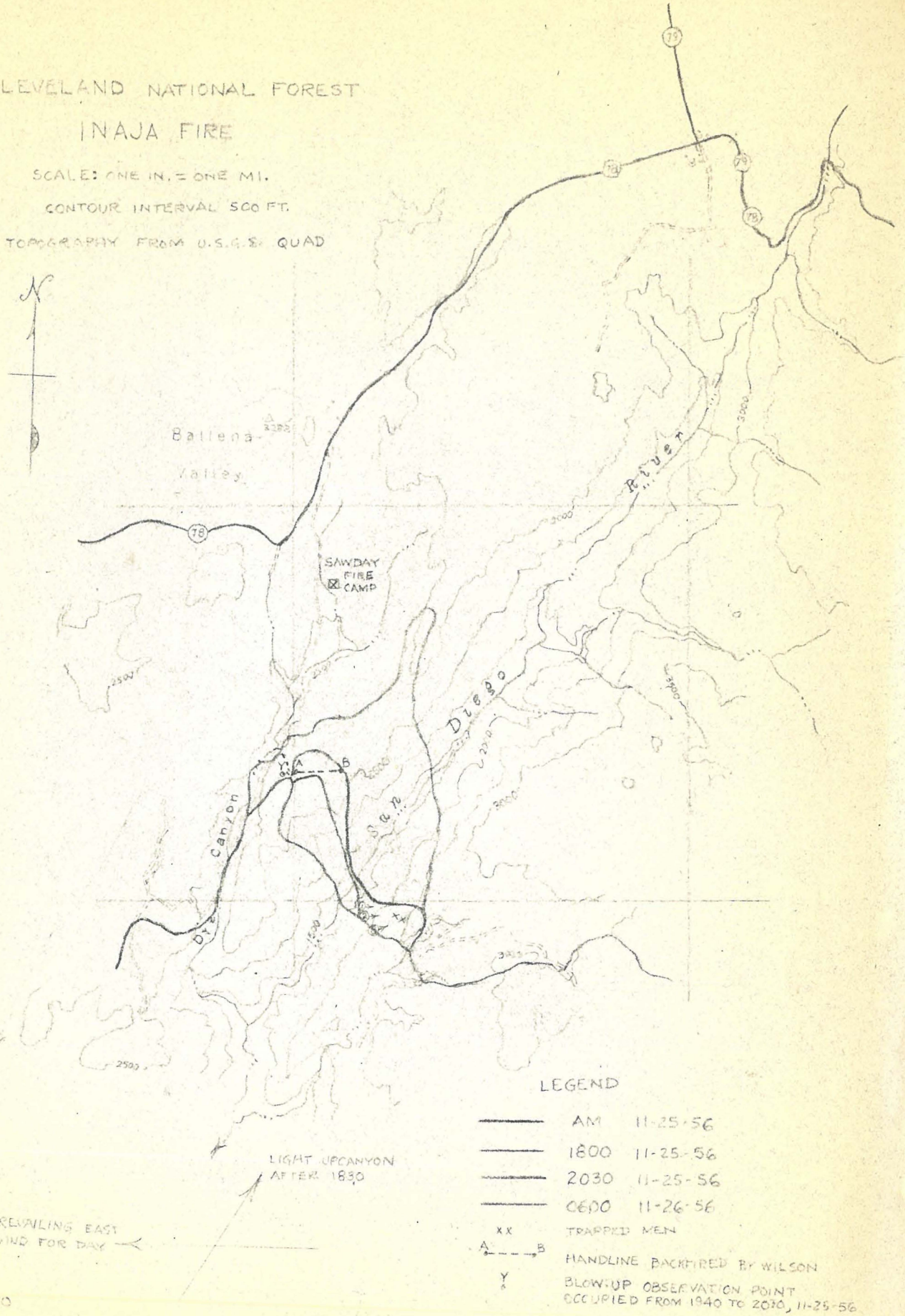
CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST

INAJA FIRE

SCALE: ONE IN. = ONE MI.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 500 FT.

TOPOGRAPHY FROM U.S.G.S. QUAD



—A.R. PIESKO
11-26-56

November 30, 1956

PERSONNEL HISTORY STATEMENT

Region 5

NAME: Carl C. Wilson

PRESENT ASSIGNMENT: Forester (Fire Research), GS-12

DATE OF BIRTH: 3/17/15

EDUCATION: B. S. Forestry, University of Idaho , 1939
M. S. Forestry, University of California, 1941

EXPERIENCE:
1/56--Assistant Chief Division of Forest Fire Research, GS-11 and GS-12
7/51-1/56--District Ranger, Arroyo Seco, Angeles, GS9 & GS-11
4/51-7/51--Asst. District Ranger, Arroyo Seco, Angeles, GS-7
9/49-4/51--Asst. to staff officer responsible for fire control on Angeles Forest, GS-7
6/47-9/49--Fire Control Assistant, Almanor, Lassen, and Beckwith, Plumas, SP-7

COMMENTS: By ability, interest, and experience, Carl is a competent forest officer in fire control. He has extensive experience in southern California and, because of his capacity and interests in the general field of fire control, elected to move from administration and concentrate on fire research.

December 3, 1956

STATEMENT OF JAMES R. BROWNING (16) - Tanker Crewman
(5133 Cape May Ave., San Diego)

On Sunday, November 25, we were driving around in the morning putting out small fires on Tanker 310. We got orders to go up on the hill and work there (about 2:00 p.m.) after lunch. Lunch was late. There was no crew where we went on ridge at first.

We had done a little work with tools on the fire. I didn't go down over the fireline. Wayne, Pete and Dick went down over the fireline about 4:00 p.m. One of them said they went to end of fireline. A crew came and worked down over the hill in the afternoon.

After dark a crew came with lights and went down over hill. We took hose down trail and used water until it ran out. We started to take hose up, but flames got high and crossed over the trail.

At nozzle there were 4 men who came out back up hoseline. I was at the joint (Y) and there was one length of hose more. Wayne was at back of truck and Pete Brown was there too. I was the farthest down of our crew.

I believe we unscrewed hose at joint and tried to pull it back, but I had to get out when Pete ordered me out.

(Statement taken at Hillside Hospital, San Diego, December 3, 1956
by Merle S. Lowden)

November 29, 1956

STATEMENT OF PETER BROWN (18) - Tank Truck Operator (1212 Tower Drive Vista, California, Tel. PAlace 4-1387)

I was a tank truck operator with three others on the line Sunday during the day and night. There was Jim, Ed and one other. We started using water about 7:45 p.m. and had burned out line to where hand line turned off of cat trail by that time. I had filled tank at 9:00 or 10:00 a.m. - 280 gallon tanker #310. We went from Lewis' Ranch to top of grade about 3:00 p.m. We used water on one hot spot during the afternoon. We used water on the line a little about 7:45 p.m., not much water, just turned on and off.

Time Approximate -

(7:50 p.m.) Ran out hose 150 feet or 200 feet to Y - ran 1" off of Y at flat

(8:00 p.m.) Hose broke 100 feet out - replaced link immediately - not much water.

(8:05 p.m.) Water gone - pulled up 1" line - put some hose on truck (which was rolled). Moved truck back down line.

(8:10 p.m.) Just started truck - man jumped on truck - excited he said "let's go" - all 5 men got on truck (2 crew men also on truck).

(Dick in kitchen was with crew and went back to get lunches and beds). We waited perhaps 30 minutes and then took truck and 5 men to Lewis' Ranch by pickup to camp.

(Statement taken at Escondido Ranger Station, November 29, 1956, by Merle Lowden)

STATEMENT OF PETER F. BROWN

The Inaja Fire

On the morning of November 25th I was sent out with several crewmen to relieve the night shift. I and three men, all who were inexperienced, relieved the crew on the tanker 310. The tanker checked out O.K. and we were told to patrol the Eagle Peak Truck Trail down to the Lewis Ranch, a distance of about three miles. About 20 gals of water was used on a hot spot above the Lewis Ranch during the morning. In the afternoon we were asked to pull the unit across the dam by the Lewis place and up on top of the ridge looking down into the Big Canyon, in order to strengthen the position. There was an irregular bull dozer line along the ridge and at one of the few acessible places a hand line ran down into Big Canyon. It was at the corner of these two lines that the tanker was stationed. A little after dark (5:30 P.M.) the wind began to subside and around 6:30 P.M. some back-firing was done down the ridge from the tanker location. The day crews were released and for a short time only the tanker crew and the section boss were on the ridge. During this time a crewman and I walked the line with a back-pump and hand tools.

Then the night shift of hand crews arrived, were organized and back-firing of the entire ridge to the hand line was begun. At approximately 7:45, the truck was moved down along the ridge, away from the corner, and with 50 ft. of hard line, we proceeded to cool off a hot spot on the dozer line that a gust of wind had aroused. We controled the spot at once with the use of very little water and the wind again seemed to die down. The tanker was moved back into an advantageous position at the corner and a hose lay was made. At approximately 150 to 200 ft. of inch and half, we inserted a siamese from which we ran two "one inch lines". One was short and used to protect the hose lay and the other inch line, maybe 200 ft. or more, ran down the hand line into the canyon. Both inch nozzels were manned by members of the hand crews.

At about 8:00 we began pumping and at 8;05 a 1½ inch hose broke. It was good Ranger hose and it burst at a coupling. More water was lost during the break than necessary because I was checking to see if the pressure was OK at the nozzels and had to run back andshut off the pump. (I was the only one capable of operating it.) About 8:15 I informed the nozzels operators that I was about out of water. During this time the fire had began to get real hot and showed signs of jumping the line. Then all hell seemed to break loose and there was just time to pull up the inch hose lay that ran down the ridge. The wind got gusty and the back-fire really flared up. I wasn't sure if the fire from the canyon below had joined the back-fire or if just the wind and type of brush had made it flare up.

Just as I was getting ready to move the truck to a safer position, five honor camp men jumped on the truck. They were all very excited and one had no shirt or shoes. They were questioned concerning the others below that were trapped. I was then asked to transport the men to the Lewis Ranch and pick up some more water. While at the Lewis ranch we were relieved and the crew and I returned to camp.

Peter F Brown

I might add that during the day there was a request for another tanker to be stationed at the ridge which I believe might have aided in more positive control; however none arrived.

Peter F Brown

BRIEF SUMMARY OF MY SAFETY TRAINING

BY

PETER F. BROWN

In the summer of 1955 when I first began work as a tanker crewman, I was taught; how to work safely with hand tools, in making a hose lay always use one hard line to protect the truck and remember to put in a siamese to protect the hose lay, and above all never get in a spot on a fire that may endanger you. The use of hand tools and practice hose lays were routine training at Oak Grove Guard Station. In the latter part of the summer I received a government drivers liscense. With this license went a rugged safety test and considerable training. Upon returning this summer (July 1956) I received a refresher test before my license was returned. At the station at least one day is spent going over the safety code book. I also feel that the greatest training in working safely comes from fire experience.

EXPERIENCE STATEMENT OF PETER BROWN - Tank Truck Operator, Cleveland NF

PETER BROWN

Age - 19½

Years of Service -

Crewman 7/10/55 - 9/14/55

Crewman 7/3/56 - Present

Fires Attended -

Glenn Cliff	7/29/55	(C)
Brook	8/18/55	
Mesa Grande	8/31/55	
San Juan	9/2/55	(B)
Silverado	9/11/55	(C)
Sweetwater Br.	7/15/56	(C)
Curo	8/6/56	(C)
Anahuac	7/23/56	(D)
Highway 8	8/13/56	
Southerland Dam	8/14/56	(E)
Pine Mtn.	9/8/56	(E)
North Peak	9/8/56	(E)
Good Ranch	9/23/56	(B)
Inaja	11/25/56	(E)

STATEMENT OF ROBERT "BOB" BURROWS - Sector Boss

My boss was Jack Curran. On Sunday, November 25, 1956, we unloaded crews at Lewis' Ranch about 7 a.m. Jack and I went to top of rim and talked over plans. We tried to work on line, direct line at first. The fire outflanked us underneath and we had to pull out (9-10 a.m.).

For second line, we went up rim 500 yards and cut line down. The Indian crew was out ahead cutting line. The fire picked up in bottom of San Diego Canyon. We got 1/3 way from top to bottom of canyon. I finally pulled crew out because of dangerous conditions. I asked Jack about firing out this line. We decided not to. We went up rim 600 yards and started another line (3rd) into canyon (just before noon). We had about 20 Indian crew men plus 10 Chico State Prison Camp men. Lunches came 1:15-1:30 p.m., and I took them down to crew. They were down 200-300 yards then where there was light cutting. Cat line along top of rim was put in from 9 to 10 a.m. on. They worked down from point above where 3rd line was eventually built. Tanker had brought up our lunches and Jack Curran rode up with it. After lunch, I talked to leader of Indian cutting crew. I asked him how long he thought it would take to get to canyon bottom. He estimated 3 hours (this was about 2 p.m.).

When I came back up trail, fire was burning on opposite side of main canyon and rolling into canyon. I met Ernie on top. (Ernie was an Indian in charge of 20-25 man Saboboa Indian Crew.) I had told Ernie to stay on top watching fire. I started back down. Ernie called to me that some fire had crossed canyon so I pulled men back up over 1/2 way to top.

I talked to Ernie about our work (3 p.m.). We decided to make another attempt on line and I went down with them. I took all of Indian crew and 10 of Chino Crew. We made about 100 yards of good line and 200 yards of rough line. Ernie called again and said to come on out. Fire was running up parallel to line over some distance from us. We all pulled out to top (about 3:45 p.m.).

Then fire made a run to top of rim but it still was at least 200 yards from our line. It had run in a straight line and burned away from our line. We talked over burning out our line, but Jack Curran advised against it. I wanted to fire it out, but Jack figured we had too much fire already. Jack, another crew boss, and I were on top. There was some talk of firing from cat line along rim but none was done at this time while I was there. About dusk (approx. 5 p.m.), I went to Lewis' Ranch with crew. We got to ranch and, looking back, we could see Jack and tanker crew firing out the cat line. We waited at ranch until night crew came in (Viejas Honor Crew). I told the men of all my crews about safety and about getting out in case of a flare up. I mentioned to Danny Street that night, about taking a crew into the canyon. Be careful of the crews that were going to be used in there that night.

/s/ Robert Burrows

EMPLOYMENT & EXPERIENCE STATEMENT - Robert G. Burrows, Ex-Forest Service Employee

April-September/1942 - AWS observer and crew member - Descanso

January-February/1943 - Laborer AWS - Descanso

February/1943 - May/1947 - Military Service - U. S. Army
Civilian Work - U. S. Navy

May/1947 - October/1951 - Fire Crew Foreman - Descanso

April/1952 - August/1952 - Fire Crew Foreman - Palomar

FIRE EXPERIENCE - Only meager information in our file.

Jet, 5/10/52, A

Trunnell, 6/1/52, A

Austin, 6/21/52 - A

LaJolla, 7/4/52, A

South Fork, 7/7/52, E

Bailey, 7/11/52, E

Pauka, 7/31/52, B

(Compiled by McBride from old district files. Burrow's folder has been sent to Record Center.)

STATEMENT OF RICHARD A. SAMUELS - Firefighter

On Sunday, November 25, Wayne Strickland, James Browning and I went to the Pine Hills Fire Camp and signed up to fight fire.

We were put on a fire truck and Pete Brown was our boss. We got out on the line about 8:30 a.m. We worked on small spot fires from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in and about the Lewis Ranch. We never put any water in the tank during the day and I think we used about 50 gallons.

About 2:30 or 3:00 p.m., we took the tanker and went to the top of the rim above the Lewis Ranch. Pete said we had about 250 gallons of water in the tank.

Wayne Strickland and I walked out over the cut line and went down over the hill aways. It was late in the afternoon. We got back just before dark. The crew had come out (day crew).

The night crew came out and started to work. We didn't get relieved nor did we get any food so I rode back to fire camp with a man in a pickup. We got supplies and returned to the fire line. When we got back, there was considerable excitement and we were told about the men getting burned.

I then returned to camp with the man in the pickup. When I got back to camp, they sent me back with a stakeside truck and a driver to get the men who were sent in from the fire. I went as a guide to show him the way. This was the night crew that was on the line. They were just above the men who were burned.

(Statement from Samuels as pieced together by Lowden and McBride from telephone conversations and interviews on December 3, 1956.)

December 3, 1956

STATEMENT OF VERNON McPHERSON - Correction Officer

We left Pine Hill Fire Camp about 4:30 p.m., Sunday, November 25, reaching the fire line about 6:30 p.m. My 20 inmates were the backfiring crew along the top of the ridge. There was only one Forest Service boss with us. He wore a badge, but I don't know his name.

The fire was in the bottom of the canyon. I have been on lots of fires and this one looked very easy at first. It was a good long way down canyon. We started backfiring at a low position on the ridge.

Between 7:15 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. the wind changed. Some body yelled for water, but there wasn't any. I didn't hear anybody call the crews out, and I didn't see any men come out. When the fire got bad, I got my crew together and held them there. The flames were 15 - 25 feet high.

I think another tanker with 300 gallons might have gotten the men out. It could have kept the fire in check so the men could have gotten out.

(Transcribed by Seth Jackson at Viejas Honor Camp, December 3, 1956)

STATEMENT OF ALBERT EVANS (32) - Inmate

I don't remember seeing any tools along trail on the way down. The fire was 200-300 yards away. There was even flames on fire edge to our left. They were not high. We had been cutting trail for approximately 20 minutes with brush hooks in the cutting crew.

First warning came from above on trail - "Come back out." I heard warning from below "let's go" (Carl Lingo). We could see no fire at that time. I am not sure whether they received radio message or not. I kept my tools and started working back up. I looked back once and noticed small run of fire on flat, then it died. There was talk among men of hurrying up, but no rushing. Below the second rocks a run of fire went by us on right about 50 feet. The men were still in order and not particularly hurrying up to then.

I realized the danger and started to hurry as much as possible. I dropped my tool and above smaller rocks. Wehrung told us to hurry about this time. The fire crossed above rocks in front of us and we turned to left. I went up rocks to left. Wehrung and Garcia were stopped at base of rocks, Garcia said "you better stay here its safer here." I was last one out. The fire crossed in behind me. I had looked back when on the more level spot and the fire was about 10 feet from trail.

There was a cleared spot 15 feet in diameter. It was pretty clean at base of rocks. I was behind McGee going over rock. Servidio and Netzke were to left of me. I saw Netzke just ahead of me at top of rocks. Fire was about 10 feet behind me when I came to cat trail and other four men were ahead.

(Statement was taken November 29, at the Viejas Honor Camp, by Merle Lowden)

December 3, 1956

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT OF ALBERT EVANS - Inmate

I was one of a 20-man crew which was on the fire Saturday night. We stayed at Pine Hill Camp Sunday, November 25, for chow and to rest up. Seven out of the twenty were not in good shape and requested to go back to Viejas Honor Camp. This is why there were only 13 on Anderson's crew. If the 7 men had gone back on the fire, most of them probably would not have escaped from the blowup.

The ones of us who did escape volunteered to go back on the line again. I consider it a fluke accident. After all there were only 8 caught, out of 2000 on the fire. I would go out on another fire if the camp gets a call.

This is my second fire. The first one was a brush fire. It was about almost out when I got there. The only instructions I remember on Anderson's crew were to cut the line wide.

(Transcribed by Seth Jackson, 12/3/56)

Statement of N. Y. McGee (22) - Inmate

I had a pulaski to work with on the line. When I got to rocks, I dropped it at bottom of rocks. Wood took a pulaski out ahead with forestry man. I passed quite a few men on way up.

Wehrung said, "I think we will be safe here if we stay here, this is about the safest place." I stopped once to rest and then went on. Fire cut us off when it went ahead of us. I turned left and went over the rocks.

I never got started to work. I was told to wait until brush cutters cleared trail. We were there 20 to 25 minutes before word came to come back up. I started up at normal rate. While I was sitting there, I could see a faint glow of fire below.

I was about 1/2 way up from where we stopped when word came from above to drop tools and hurry. I was first one out. Fire was 25 feet behind me. I asked for water from tanker but was told no water was available. Evans was just behind me. Sloane was behind Evans.

(Statement taken at Viejas Honor Camp November 29, 1956, by Merle S. Lowden)

STATEMENT OF CARL E. NETZKE (20) - Inmate

When going down the trail the fire was on our left 150 yards away on straight line down hill. I don't remember radio being used. I didn't see any tools along line going down trail. I had a brushhook, blanket, canteens (2) and shovel (Garcia's) coming back up as far as where Wehrung was. I also had 2 cans juice.

We had been working 10 minutes or less when the call came for us to come back up.

We were widening trail two-thirds of way trail was good then narrowed. We were widening with Fallin on one side and I was on other cutting brush. Carl Lingo was 30 feet behind me and (Andy) just ahead. He was telling us what to do. Another ranger (Joseph ?) was behind. There was no indication of trouble or fire flaring up that we could see. A call came from behind (from foreman) for us to "stop what you are doing and come on up." I passed Tibbitts and Daniels.

Pretty quick another call came to drop tools and come on. I was just behind Garcia (who had a shovel). Soon I passed Carl (Lingo) helping O'Hara. Carl had ahold of his arm. After the second call I hurried up.

I passed Wehrung in a small clearing where there was a rock on the left. Wehrung said "stay here, I don't believe we can make it and this looks like the safest place."

We went off of trail to left. Servidio and McGee were ahead and Evans close. (I didn't see Sloane).

I went around the rocks to the left. McGee went over rocks and wanted me to too. I thought best to go to left. Servidio went over rocks. I gave him a shove. I went around to left and helped Servidio from top. He lost his shoes just before climbing rocks (one came off - other he shook off). The fire was very close to our right (singed my arm). Fire was right behind us, as we came out on cat trail. I ran over to tanker - Danny (Street) asked where are the others.

(Statement was taken November 29, at Viejas Honor Camp by Merle Lowden)

STATEMENT OF FRANK SERVIDIO (21) - Inmate

I did not have a tool. I had two canteens and two large cans for coffee. Carl (Lingo) had the radio. I'm pretty sure he had a pack. I remember Carl calling for one of the rangers to come on down, "I want to see you." I saw no work tools by the trail as we went down. Fire looked safe as we went down. It was in a straight, even line.

Four or five of us were having a smoke break when call came, "bring them on up," from above. All of us took our time when we started up. We went about 50 feet when we got another call hurrying us up, "hurry up and get up here." I looked back about every 15 feet. Fire seemed about 1/2 or 1 mile off when we got second call. I was about ten feet from Wehrung when second call came. He said, "You better pull off here and wait." Garcia was with Wehrung. They were below rocks 30 feet in small opening.

I got to rocks and tried to climb; one shoe came off. I wanted to crawl into rocks. Carl Netzhe gave me a boost up rocks and later pulled me from top. When I got up, I threw other shoe off and threw coat away. The fire had gone across trail above rocks in front of us. Fire was 5 to 10 feet on our right when we got to top of rocks. I ran to dozer line. Then I ran to truck and jumped on it (Carl Netzke was right with me from top of rocks to dozer line).

(Statement taken at Viejas Honor Camp November 29, 1956, by Merle Lowden)

STATEMENT OF HERMAN SLOANE (18) - Inmate

I didn't see anyone with radio. I didn't see any tools on ground going down trail.

Shepherd and I were drinking water when call came. Carl called to get out from below. Fire was at bottom of canyon and wasn't burning much. I passed on way up Shepherd, Hamilton, O'Hara and Tibbitts. I didn't hear any second call. Wehrung went to bottom - I don't remember passing him coming out (Ed Note: We believe he was confused on whom this way). McGee was ahead.

I passed Netzke, Servidio and Evans.

I dropped shovel at foot of rocks.

(Statement taken at Viejas Honor Camp November 29, 1956, by Merle Lowden)

STATEMENT OF LIONEL WOOD (35) - Inmate

A call come from above to get out. I passed Hamilton. The Ranger above said "For heaven sakes get out." A Ranger with blue helmet was behind me. I saw Wehrung sit down, he said, "I believe we'll be safe here."

I came out to man who had water in hose. He was coming down spraying water. He said, "the water is about gone."

The fire crossed trail behind me.

(Statement was taken November 29, at the Viejas Honor Camp, by Merle Lowden)

November 30, 1956

PERSONNEL HISTORY STATEMENT

Region 5

NAME: Albert W. Anderson

PRESENT ASSIGNMENT: Forestry Aid (Scaling), GS-9

DATE OF BIRTH: 9/18/11

EDUCATION: High School Graduate

EXPERIENCE:

6/56--Area Check-Scaler and Timber Sale Inspector on three forests (Klamath, Shasta-Trinity, and Six Rivers), GS-9

11/54-6/56--Asst. to district rangers of McCloud and Pit district, Shasta-Trinity, in charge of resources and improvements--especially timber activities, GS-7

8/44-11/54--Timber Management Assistant, Shasta Forest, SP-8 and GS-7.

11/42-8/44--Chief Forest Ranger, Shasta Forest, SP-8, timber sale administration work

10/41-11/42--Principal Forest Ranger, Shasta Forest, SP-7

4/38-10/41--Assistant Scaler, SP-4, Shasta Forest

4/32-4/38--Worked for Shasta Forest part time (most of each year) as Fire Laborer, Firefighter, Scaler, Insect Control Spotter, Timekeeper, Field Asst.

COMMENTS: Lacking technical training, Anderson reached GS-9 on the basis of his personal ability. He has an excellent Forest Service record--a good leader and a splendid attitude. This has been evidenced throughout his Forest Service career. In his various assignments he demonstrated his capacity for judgment and competency in meeting responsibilities and work assignments.

Anderson, Albert W.

(Your Name)

EXPERIENCE ON FIRES

Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5
Year	Name of Fire if Known	Forest	A&B C,D,E	Actual assignment as: Crew Boss, Servic Chief, Scout, etc.
1945	1 Class A	Shasta	A	Fire Boss
	McCloud Bridge	"	E	Sector Boss
	Fall Creek	"	C	Fire Boss
	Stienacher Creek	Klamath	C	Fire Boss
	Portuguese Pk	"	E	Sector Boss
	Kimshaw	Lassen	E	Division & Sector Boss
1946	Boulder Cr.	Klamath	E	Sector Boss
	Johnson Grade	Lassen	E	Scout-Snag Falling Boss
	Pitney Ridge	Mendocino	E	Sector Boss
	Pine Mtn.	Mendocino	E	Sector Boss
	Smith Cr.	Plumas #	E	Snag Falling Boss
	Deer Mtn.	Shasta	C	Snag Falling Boss
	Big Canyon Spur	"	D(T)	Sector Boss
1947	Lightning Cone	Shasta	3 Class A	Fire Boss
	Miller Mtn.	"	C	Sector Boss
	Old Lookout	"	C	Fire Boss-Snag Falling Boss
	Whipple Ranch	"	E	Sector Boss
	Tecnor	"	E	Division Boss

Anderson, Albert W.
(Your Name)

EXPERIENCE ON FIRES

Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5
Year	Name of Fire if Known	Forest	A&B C,D,E	Actual assignment as: Crew Boss, Servi Chief, Scout, etc.
1947	(Contd.)			
	Walker Springs	Modoc	E	Sector Boss
	Shield Cr.	"	E	Sector Boss
	Allen Ranch	Eldorado	E	Division Boss
	Duffy Creek	Lassen	E	Division Boss
1948	Green River	Cleveland	E	Sector Boss
	6 Class A	Shasta	A	Fire Boss(Crew Boss)
	Red Bridge	Mendocino	E	Sector Boss-"Cat" Scout - "Cat" Boss on advision.
1949	Sheepwell	Shasta	E	Scout - 1 shift - Line Boss
	Whitethorn	"	D	Tanker Boss
	Mtn. House	"	D	"Cat" Boss
	Eye Creek	"	C	"Cat" Boss - Scout
	Horse Peak	"	D	"Cat" Boss
	Snow Camp	"	D	Line Boss
	Iron Canyon	"	D	Crew Boss
	Lightning Cone	"	3 Class A	Crew Boss-Fire Boss

Anderson, Albert W.
(Your Name)

EXPERIENCE ON FIRES

Col 1 Year	Col 2 Name of Fire if Known	Col 3 Forest	Col 4 A&B C,D,E	Col 5 Actual assignment as: Crew Boss, Servic Chief, Scout, etc.
1950	Lopez	Shasta	A-(T)	(Crewman)
	Shasta Dump	"	C-(T)	Sector Boss
	Long Valley	"	E	"Cat" Boss
	Soldier Mtn.	"	E	"Cat" Boss
	Porcupine	Shasta	E	"Cat" Boss -(Modoc-Shasta)
1951	N. Salt Creek	"	A	Fire Boss-(Crew Boss)
	Lightning Cone	"	5-Class A	Fire Boss-(Crew Boss)
	M.P.-305.70	"	C	Line Boss-(Night Shift)
	Middle Salt Cr.	"	D	"Cat" Boss
	West Haight	"	E	Line Boss-Line inspector-(2nd Break)
	Algomah	"	B	Timekeeper
1952	Ash Cr. Sink	"	C	Crew Boss - "Cat" Boss
	Air Observer			10 hours
	O'Brien	"	D	"Cat" Boss
1953	Mt. Shasta	"	D	"Cat" Boss
	Lady Slipper	"	C	Sector Spec. ("cats")
	Big Dalton	Los Padros	E	Sector Boss

Anderson, Albert W.
(Your Name)

EXPERIENCE ON FIRES

Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5
Year	Name of Fire if Known	Forest	A&B C,D,E	Actual assignment as: Crew Boss, Servic Chief, Scout, etc.
1954	3	Shasta	A & B	Initial attack and control.
1955	3	Shasta	A & B	Initial attack and control lightning fires.
	Thompson Pk.	Sh.-Tr.	E	Cat Boss
	Williams #2	"	E	Cat Boss
	Balam Fire	"	E	Cat Boss
	Huckleberry	"	B	Sect. Boss & Initial Attack.
1956	McKinley Fire	San Bern.	E	
	Misc.Lightning	Sh-Tr.	ABC	Initial attack and control
	Inaja	Cleveland	E	Sector Boss

For. No. 203-R5

(1)

Date 1956 — SUMMARY OF FIRE QUALIFICATION CARD (FORM 65-R5) — Unit Sh. Tr.

NAME (Full, as on payroll) (a)	Best Off-Forest Fire Assignment (b)	(c) Special Qualification: Rough Line	Hot Line	Mop Up Work	N-S Exper.	(d) Fire Boss	Line or Div. Boss	Sector Boss	Crew Boss	Cat Boss	Pumper Boss	Saw Boss	Plans Chief	Records Off.	Line Scout	Timekeeper	Service Chief	Camp Boss	Cat Operator	Pumper Operat.	(e) Tool Handler	(e) 30 days Officer	Other qualifications and Remarks (f)
Abell C.A.	Plans		✓	✓	N	X	(X)						(X)									(X)	No Fly.
Albarco Fred J	Div. F Boss	✓	✓	✓	NS	(X)	(X)						(X)				T						Investigator
✓ Anderson Albert A.	Cat Boss	✓	✓	✓	NS		X	(X)		(X)		(X)											
✓ Bongsberg P.C.	Div Boss	✓	✓	✓	NS	X	(X)						(X)										Investigator
Barr H.E.	None																	X					No line jobs
Barnes C.F	Crew Boss	✓	✓	✓	N			T	(X)							(X)				(X)			
Beals Ray L.	Div. Boss	✓	✓	✓	N		(X)										X						
Beem H.G.	Sector Boss	✓	✓	✓	N		T	(X)	(X)			(X)			(X)					(X)			
Blankenship Tom	Radio Tech.	✓	✓	✓	NS			(X)															
Bowman Less (W)	None				N														X		X		No line other than Cat.

CODE: T - Training Assignment; X - On-Forest Qualification; (X) - Off-Forest Qualification; N - Northern Calif. Exp.; S - Southern Calif. Experience. See reverse side for further instruction.

AGRICULTURE—FOREST SERVICE—SAN FRANCISCO

RUPERT W. ASPLUND

Asplund has had many years of forest fire experience both in northern and southern California. I have observed Asplund on many large fires and know that he is well qualified to fill the position of Fire Boss under any circumstances.

William A. Peterson

William A. Peterson
Forest Supervisor

Form No. 203-R5

Date June 28, 1956 — SUMMARY OF FIRE QUALIFICATION CARD (FORM 85-R5) — Unit PLUMAS

NAME (Full, as on payroll) (a)	Best Off-Forest Fire Assignment (b)	(c) Special Qualification				(d)															(e)	(e)	Other Qualifications and Remarks (f)
		Rough Line	Hot Line	Mop Up Work	N-S Exper.	Fire Boss	Line or Div. Boss	Sector Boss	Crew Boss	Cat Boss	Pumper Boss	Saw Boss	Plans Chief	Records Off.	Line Scout	Timekeeper	Service Chief	Camp Boss	Cat Operator	Pumper Operat.			
ASPLUND, RUPERT W.	Fire Boss				X	(X)																	

CODE: T - Training Assignment; X - On-Forest Qualification; (X) - Off-Forest Qualification; N - Northern Calif. Exp.; S - Southern Calif. Experience. See reverse side for further instruction.

AGRICULTURE—FOREST SERVICE—SAN FRANCISCO

November 30, 1956

PERSONNEL HISTORY STATEMENT

Region 5

NAME: Robert H. Cron

PRESENT ASSIGNMENT: Forester (General), GS-12

DATE OF BIRTH: 9/26/13

EDUCATION: B. S., Entomology, New York State College of Forestry, 1936
M. F., Silviculture, N. Y. State College of Forestry, 1937

EXPERIENCE:
4/52--Staffman on Modoc in charge of timber resource, land activities, GS-11, GS-12
4/49-4/52--Modoc staffman responsible for timber management, land acquisition, and fire control, P-4, GS-11
4/48-4/49--Modoc staff officer in charge of timber sale activities, P-3
6/46-4/48--Mendocino staff asst. in charge of timber, grazing, lands, and recreation; P-3
4/42-6/46--District Ranger Cannell Meadow, Hume Lake, Western Divide, Sequoia; SP-7, P-2, P-3

COMMENTS: A top man, exceptionally proficient in timber management and fire control. Strong in initiative, drive, and leadership. Sound in decisions and judgment; excellent in training. Has had many off-forest fire assignments with creditable performance on all.

STATEMENT OF FIRE QUALIFICATIONS OF ROBERT H. CRON, FORESTER

MODOC NATIONAL FOREST

Robert H. Cron entered the Forest Service in June 1937 as a Junior Forester on the San Bernardino National Forest. ~~Due to his above average intelligence and good work attitude, his advancement was rapid.~~ He began acquiring fire experience his first year on the San Bernardino and by 1938 was handling assignments as Division Boss on Class E fires on that forest. By 1942 he was a qualified fire boss on Class E fires on the Sequoia National Forest. The record shows that he continued to gain fire experience and in 1942 worked in the respective capacities of Division Boss, Scout, and Fire Boss on four Class E fires on the Sequoia. In 1943, he was assigned as Division Boss and Fire Boss on two Class E fires on the Sequoia and as Division Boss on a Class E fire on the Cleveland National Forest. Records are incomplete for subsequent years, but it is known that Cron has taken an active part in fire suppression throughout his years in the Service.

From 1948 to 1951, inclusive, he was Fire Control Officer on the Modoc National Forest. During that time the forest experienced 15 Class E fires. On all of these Cron acted as Advisor to the District Ranger in charge of the fire. In only one instance was it necessary for Cron to take charge of the fire. He was assigned as ~~Plans Chief~~ Div. Boss to such off-forest Class E fires as the Milk Ranch (Plumas - 1951), Rattlesnake (Mendocino - 1953), and Six-Mile (Klamath - 1955).

Cron has a better than average understanding of fire behavior and fire suppression methods. He understands the technique of forecasting rate of fire spread in different types of terrain and cover and is especially well-versed in the brush type common to the forests from the Mendocino south. It is my considered opinion that he is fully qualified to handle any fire in Northern or Southern California in the capacity of Fire Boss. This rating is shown on the attached Form 203-R5, "Summary of Fire Qualification Card (Form 85-R5)" for 1956.

H M Stratton

Harold M. Stratton
Fire Control Officer
Modoc National Forest

Form No. 203-85

Date 1956 — SUMMARY OF FIRE QUALIFICATION CARD (FORM 85-R5) — Unit Modoc

NAME (Full, as on payroll) (a)	Best Off-Forest Fire Assignment (b)	(c) Special Qualification: Rough Line	Hot Line	Top Up Work	N-S Exper.	(d) Fire Boss	Line Gf Div. Boss	Sector Boss	Crew Boss	Cat Boss	Pumper Boss	Saw Boss	Plane Chief	Records Off.	Line Scout	Timekeepr	Service Chief	Camp Boss	Cat Operator	Pumper Operat.	(e) Security Officer	Equipment Officer	Intelligence Officer	Transmitter Operator	Radio Technician	Communications Tech.
Babbitt, Donald G.					N			X	(X)	T				T X		X										
Bithell, Robin A.					N				X																	
Broadhurst, Walter D.					N S			(X)		(X)	(X)				X					(X)				X			
Brough, Elmo A.					S S	X	(X)							(X)	(X)		(X)	(X)			(X)	(X)	X				
Bunstein, Henry L.					N S			(X)							X	X										
Bushy, Joseph L.									(X)																	
Cannon, Chester D. Sr.					N					X							X				X					
Cannon, Chester D. Jr.					N S		T	(X)																		
Casad, Benjamin C.					N			T X	(X)	T	(X)	T														
Clark, Paul					N														(X)							
Carter, Roland O.									X																	
Coombes, George M.					N S			T (X)	(X)		(X)			T X	T X											
Cron, Robert H.					N S	(X)							(X)					(X)								

CODE: T - Training Assignment; X - On-Forest Qualification; (X) - Off-Forest Qualification; N - Northern Calif. Exp.; S - Southern Calif. Experience. See reverse side for further instructions.

E-3 (7)

November 30, 1956

PERSONNEL HISTORY STATEMENT

Region 5

NAME: Forrest B. Maxwell

PRESENT ASSIGNMENT: Fire Control Aid, GS-2

DATE OF BIRTH: 3/13/26

EDUCATION: through Junior Year of High School

EXPERIENCE: 11/19/56--Fire Control Aid, GS-2, Shasta-Trinity
3-11/56--Fire Control Aid (Gen.), GS-4, Shasta-Trinity, Informal Appointment

COMMENTS: Although only a Forest Service employee a short time, based on his trial the Forest recommended change from temporary employment to appointment status.

Maxwell, Forest
(Your Name)

EXPERIENCE ON FIRES

Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5
Year	Name of Fire if Known	Forest	A&B C.D.E	Actual assignment as: Crew Boss, Servic Chief, Scout, etc.
1956				
10/16	Slash Fire	Sh.-Tr.	A	Initial Attack & Control-Crew Boss
9/19	Lightning	Sh.-Tr.	A,B & C	Reconnaissance
8/28	August fire	Sh.-Tr.	B	Initial Attack-Crewman under Crew Boss
8/1	Lakehead Dump	Sh.-Tr.	A	Initial attack & control-Crew Boss
7/31	Camel Cr.	Sh.-Tr.	B	Initial attack & control-by himself & crew.
7/22	So.Dunsmuir	"	Structure	Initial attack & control.
7/22	Cascarina	Sh.-Tr.	A	Crew Boss
7/13	MP 301.44	"	A	Crew Boss
7/12	Mosquito Cr.	"	A	Crew Boss
7/10	Cavanuagh	"	A	With Crew on control
7/1-7/2	Little South Dog Creek	"	A	" " " "
~~6/15-6/16~~	~~ABC Lightning~~	"	--	~~Crewman~~
6/15	Lightning	"	ABC	Crewmember under Crew Boss
5/59	Lightning	"	AB&C	" " " "
4/19	Gables	"	A	Initial attack & control
4/9	MP. 331	"	B	TTO & Initial attack
4/8	Black Butte Spr.	"	B	" " "
4/7	Tunnel 14	Sh.-Tr.	A	TTO
4/4-4/5	First 622	"	A	TTO

(78 hours on fire up until time he went to Cleveland)

EXPERIENCE STATEMENT OF LEROY WEHRUNG - Correction Officer

LEROY WEHRUNG

VIEJAS HONOR CAMP, SAN DIEGO COUNTY

15 years with County

8 years with Camps

Has been on many fires

Automotive Mechanic for Camp

Outdoor man

Former garage mechanic in town